

GUJARAT STATE GAZETTEERS



Government of Gujarat

GANDHINAGAR DISTRICT



Chief Editors

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GANDHINAGAR DISTRICT



GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT



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P R E F A C E

This is the sixteenth Gazetteer in the series published by the State Government, and the first for the Gandhinagar District, which derives its name from the capital of the State.

As the district is newly constituted, there is no previous Gazetteer, nor are there any books, reports, etc., which could help in the preparation of a full-fledged Gazetteer. However, some literature was available from the former Gaekwar territory of Mahesana and the British territory of Ahmadabad. The *Kadi Prant Sarvasangrah*, the *Baroda State Gazetteer* of 1883 and the revised edition prepared by Sarvashree G. H. Desai and A. B. Clarke in 1923, the *Settlement Reports*, the *Annual Administration Reports* of the former Baroda State, etc., were used in the preparation of the Gazetteer. Therefore, the task was difficult as the work had to be done *de novo*.

The site of the capital was chosen by Dr. Jivraj Mehta, the first Chief Minister of Gujarat, before the formation of the State. The christening of the district as Gandhinagar is in accordance with the desire to perpetuate the memory of Mahatma Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation. The new Sachivalaya is to be named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Thus the capital is to honour two of the greatest sons of the country and of Gujarat. The State's capital has been planned in such a way as to become an ideal living centre, the residents being rectangularly accommodated in what is called sectors, which are 30 in all at present.

The district has certain distinguishing characteristics. It is the second smallest district in the State, the first being the Dangs. Both of them are entirely rural, but the difference between the two is that Dangs is a sparsely populated district with a hilly terrain and rocky infertile soil, thick forests, and mainly populated by Adivasis. The Gandhinagar district has fertile soil which grows food crops like rice, wheat, *bajri*, *jowar*, maize and pulses like *tur* and gram, in addition to cash crops like sugarcane, chillies, sesamum, cotton, tobacco, groundnut and castor. Dangs lacks in prosperity while Gandhinagar abounds in it. Pethapur, the largest village, was once the capital of Pethapur State ruled by Vaghela Rajputs. Both Pethapur and Randheja are trading and commercial centres of the district. During the British regime, Dabhoda was the headquarters of the Bavishi Thana under the Mahikantha Agency.

The district is entirely agricultural, as it supports 61.40 per cent of working population. As much as 57.95 per cent of persons in the district are dependent upon agriculture. Land utilisation is to the extent of 72 per cent. There are no major irrigation projects. Therefore, the sources for irrigation are wells, tanks and tube-wells. The medium irrigation scheme of Rajpur on the river Khari is also not much useful, on account of insufficiency of rainfall. The soil of the district is sandy to sandy loam type and has good potentialities for expansion of horticulture.

The district was known for its Bandhani type sarees of Pethapur. The Bhavasar and Khatris of Pethapur were famous for dyeing work and the cloth was exported to Thailand in the past. Wooden printing blocks called 'Sodagiri' were exported to Singapore but they are now sent to Bombay, Rajkot, Jodhpur and Ahmadabad. There exists a factory at Pethapur for the manufacture of wooden blocks for calico printing.

The district is, however, industrially backward as there are no major industries. A thermal power station at Gandhinagar has been constructed for generation of electricity.

In the field of banking, the district had sixteen branches of nationalised commercial banks in 1972. The district was grouped under the Lead Bank Scheme with the Dena Bank exercising the functions of the Lead Bank for undertaking survey of existing banking facilities and to explore possibilities for future expansion.

The Ahmadabad District Central Co-operative Bank functions in Gandhinagar district also for provision of co-operative credit for agricultural development. The district had 280.18 km., of roads in 1975, of which 187.87 km., were metalled. By 1980-81, the road length will be increased to 384.71 km., under the 20-Year Road Development Plan. The district is served by National Highways-Ahmadabad-Delhi, and Ahmadabad-Abu Road and State Highways like Naroda-Hansol, etc., and major and other district roads. Yet some villages are still left out from even modicum of roads. Efforts to cover them are being made under the Plans. The district has four rail lines, including the recently constructed Sabarmati-Gandhinagar line.

In the district, the temple of Vasania Mahadev at Vasan is believed to be 2000 years old. The Vaijnath Mahadev temple at Unava, built in the Vikram Samvat 101, was destroyed during the Muslim invasion. An inscription of Vikram Samvat 1748 is found in the temple of Hanumanji in the precincts of the temple dedicated to Laxminarayan, which also contains paintings of episodes from Ramayan, *Samudra-Manthan* and *Ras leela* of Shri Krishna in the ceiling. A majority of people follow Hinduism, though

there are mosques scattered in villages of the district. It has *Mahaprabhuji's bethak* and temple of *Swaminarayan* which are places for worship and pilgrimage for the Vaishnavas. Rupal is known for the *palli* of Varadayini-mata. During the Navratri festival, it is visited by a large number of devotees. At Motera, there is the Gayatri Upasana Khand at Sadashiv Ashram for discourses on Vedanta and Gayatri recitations. The district has temples dedicated to Brahmani mata, which are rarely found. At Chiloda, ruins of temples of Chaulukya period are found, signifying the rule of Chaulukya Rajputs over the territory.

The Gazetteer was prepared under the stewardship of my predecessor, Dr. S. B. Rajyagor, who left the charge in April 1978 after sending the draft to the Press. I took over in June 1978.

The work of preparation of Gazetteers is a complex and laborious task and requires uninterrupted zeal, patience, knowledge and aptitude on the part of those associated with this great task. In order that the work may be carried on smoothly as per requirements of such standard works of reference, an internal editorial board has been formed which comprises:

1. Shri S. Tripathy
I.A.S.
Chief Editor.
2. Shri U. M. Chokshi
Deputy Editor.
3. Shri M. R. Trivedi
Research Officer.
4. Dr. A. P. Bhatt
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5. Shri R. R. Trivedi
Research Officer.
6. Shri C. A. Thakker
Research Officer.
7. Shri C. C. Trivedi
Research Officer.

This Board carried out the arduous work of editing the Gazetteers. The Research Officers have been entrusted with drafting the chapters. The

role played by the Research Assistants Sarvashri D. H. Acharya, B. A. Patel, N. D. Bhatt, Y. D. Jadeja, S. S. Shah, B. K. Soni, Smt. N. N. Parikh and Shri J. R. Shah is also noteworthy in regard to collection and checking of data, preparing the rough drafts, etc. The Junior Assistants S/Shri R. D. Gandhi, P. B. Parikh, K. T. Trivedi, Kum. K. S. Suryavanshi, S. S. Bhonsle, G. N. Solanki, K. H. Arab and B. J. Patel prepared the statistical base for the preparation of Gazetteers. The proof processing work was looked after by my officers and staff alike, who meticulously checked and rechecked the material before publication. The manuscript of the Gazetteer was neatly put into shape by Shri P. Bhaskaran, Stenographer and Typists Smt. S. M. Saiyad and Sarvashri K. B. Soni, N. R. Bhavsar and R. M. Parmar.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge with profound thanks the work Dr. P. N. Chopra Editor, Central Gazetteers Unit, Government of India, and his team did in scrutinising the draft and making valuable suggestions, which have been considered.

Lastly, I thank the Director, Government Printing and Stationery, Ahmadabad and Shri S. S. Sardesai, Manager, Government Central Press, Gandhinagar and his staff for printing an elegant volume for the district.

Ahmadabad,
26th November, 1979.

S. TRIPATHY,
I. A. S.
Chief Editor.



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I also thank the following scholars who have contributed material for preparing the district Gazetteer.

1. Dr. H. G. Shastri, Director, B. J. Institute, Ahmadabad for Ancient History.
2. Shri Jethalal Trivedi, for history of Medieval and Modern period and culture portion of chapter on Education and Culture.
3. Shri Lavkumar Khachar for contributing on Wild Animals and Birds.
4. All District Level Officers for furnishing necessary information about various topics included in the Gazetteer.



**GANDHINAGAR DISTRICT
GAZETTEER**



सन्यामेव जयने



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सत्यमेव जयते

PART I

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Introductory

The Origin of the Name of the District

The Gandhinagar district takes its name from the town of Gandhinagar which is the headquarters of the district as well as the capital of the State of Gujarat. The new district of Gandhinagar is named after Mahatma Gandhi, 'the Father of the Nation'.

As in the case of the Dangs district, it is a single taluka district with the boundaries of the district and the taluka being conterminous.

Location¹

The Gandhinagar district is part and parcel of the fertile plain of north Gujarat and as such it is situated in the heart of Gujarat. The Gandhinagar district lies between 23°5' and 23°22' north latitudes and 72°32' east longitude. It is bounded on the north by the Mahesana and the Ahmadabad districts, on the north-east by the Sabar Kantha district, on the south and east by the Ahmadabad district and on the west by the Mahesana district.

Area and Population

The Gandhinagar district's total area is 649 square km., according to 1971 Census which accounted for only 0.33 per cent of the State's total geographical area. It is the State's smallest district from the view point of area and it is ranked 19th in the State.

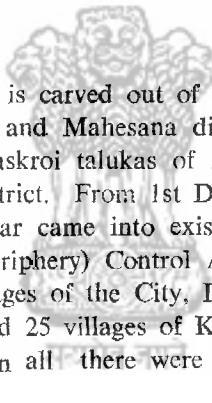
In 1971, the district had a population of 2,00,642 persons representing 0.75 per cent of the total State's population. From the view of population, the district is ranked 18th in the State. The density of the population is 309 persons per square kilometre. The total rural population of the district according to 1971 Census was 1,76,587 persons living in 75 villages. The urban population of the district was 24,055 living in the town of Gandhinagar. The percentage of urban population to total population in the district in 1971 was 11.99.

1. *Census of India, 1971, Administrative Atlas*, p. 63;

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The present Gandhinagar district, as discussed later on in the section on Territorial Changes, has been brought into existence since 1964 by amalgamation of villages of Kalol taluka of Mahesana district and part of Dehgam, Daskroi and City talukas of Ahmadabad district. The villages of Kalol and Dehgam talukas prior to the merger of States and Estates belonged to the Baroda State while the villages of Daskroi and City talukas were in Ahmadabad district which was part of the old Bombay State of the British India. In ex-Baroda State, Kalol taluka was in Kadi Prant and the headquarters of the Kadi Prant was Kadi, but in 1902 it was shifted to Mahesana. After the merger of the Baroda State in the former Bombay State, part of Dehgam taluka was merged in Ahmadabad district on 1st May, 1949. While Kalol taluka continued to be in Mahesana district.

TERRITORIAL CHANGES



The Gandhinagar district is carved out of the villages which formerly belonged to the Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts. These villages were of the City, Dehgam and Daskroi talukas of Ahmadabad district and the Kalol taluka of Mahesana district. From 1st December, 1964 the new "one taluka district" of Gandhinagar came into existence under section 2A of the Gujarat New Capital (Periphery) Control Act, 1960¹. The district consisted of one, 29 and 24 villages of the City, Dehgam and Daskroi talukas of the Ahmadabad district and 25 villages of Kalol taluka of the Mahesana district respectively. Thus in all there were 79 villages at the time of the formation of the district.

No new additions have been made to the list of the villages thereafter. According to 1971 Census there were in all 75 villages and one town viz. Gandhinagar. The reduction in number of villages is due to the fact that 4 entire villages viz., Indroda, Borij, Dholakuva and Adivada have been merged in the new township of Gandhinagar.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

The Gandhinagar is one taluka district for the purposes of revenue administration. The Collector of Ahmadabad is in charge of general administration, law and order and civil supplies. There is a Mamlatdar in charge of Gandhinagar district. His office is located at Gandhinagar itself.

1. Government of Gujarat, Revenue and Agriculture Department, Resolution No. T.L.C. 1064-L, Sachivalaya, Ahmadabad, 27th November, 1964.

Topegraphy

PHYSICAL FEATURES¹

Configuration

The entire district is a part and parcel of North Gujarat Plain with neither hill features nor any significant natural bodies of water except the Sabarmati river. The district is level flat and sandy with ravines on both the banks of the Sabarmati river. The Sabarmati which flows through the district in a north-south direction is the principal river of the district. The other river of any importance is the Khari which also traverses the district in a north-south direction. The soils obtaining in the district consist mainly of the *Goradu* (gravelly), sandy and *Kyari* types. The district has no forests of any significance. However, some areas are studded with innumerable trees. The trees and green foliage which surround some villages enhance their beauty and afford excellent view.

THE RIVERS

There are only two rivers flowing through the district, viz., the Sabarmati and the Khari. The Sabarmati has an extensive catchment area. The courses of these rivers are described below:

The Sabarmati River

The river Sabarmati originates at the place near Vekaria in the Rajasthan State. Thereafter it touches the borders of three districts in the following order, viz., Banas Kantha, Sabar Kantha and Mahesana. Subsequently it enters Gandhinagar district.

The river is mentioned in the *Nagarkhand of Skanda Purana* and in the 6th *Uttarkhand of Padma Purana*. The area of the present Gandhinagar district previously formed part of *Anarta* which was lying between the river Sabarmati and the Arbuda mountain. It is referred to in the Junagadh rock inscription of Rudradaman as *Svabhra*, i.e., the region round about the river Sabarmati. It was so called because the river banks are full of ravines. Thus, the original name of the river Sabarmati is the Svabhramati.

According to *Padma Purana*, the Sabarmati originated from the Nandikund and after crossing Arbuda mountain, it met the Indian Ocean. The river was known by different names in different ages. It was known as Krutavati in Satyayug, Girikarnika in Tretayug, Chandana in Dwaparyug and as the Sabarmati in Kaliyug.

1. The Census of India, 1971, *Administrative Atlas*, p. 63.

About the origin of the river Sabarmati there is a legend in the *Nagarkhand* of *Skanda Purana* that once upon a time sage Vashishtha sat in deep meditation under a tree and after having attained profound vision and on account of the Varuna incantation saw sage Vishwamitra. His observation enabled him to pierce the surface of the earth and consequently lot of water started emitting out of two bore holes (रुद्र) as two streams. One sheet of water was named the 'Saraswati' while the other stream was called the 'Sabhramati.'

The river at present flows from the centre of the district. The river has high banks particularly in its upper reaches, where they sometimes rise to a height of 60 metres. The river is for the most part shallow and sluggish, with a winding and often changing course through a broad bed of sand. Even in the lower parts, the river has well-marked bluffs rising from 10 to 15 meters above its bed. The river enters this district near the village Rajpur. Thereafter it traverses near the villages of Pindfarada, Chekhalarani, Piplaj, Dolarana Vasana, Pethapur, Lekavada, Indroda, Gandhinagar, Shahpur, Koba, Valad, Bhat, Motera, Koteshwar and Chiloda in this district. Out of its total length of 416 km., the Sabarmati flows for only 34 km., in the Gandhinagar district. Thereafter the river enters the Ahmadabad district.

Near Sector No. 9 and Indroda village, a Dam is to be constructed on the Sabarmati river. A reservoir is to be constructed and big garden is to be laid out for the residents of Gandhinagar town for picnic, entertainment, etc.

सन्यामेव जयने

The Khari River

The river Khari is a tributary of the Sabarmati river. The Khari issues near village Kesarpura of Himatnagar taluka of the Sabar Kantha district. It flows in the south-eastern direction of the Gandhinagar district. The following villages are on the banks of the Khari river viz., Isanpur Mota, Magodi, Dabhoda, Vadodara, Vankanerda, Galudan, Sonarda, and Raipur.

Out of its entire length of 160 km., the Khari flows for only 18 km., in the Gandhinagar district. The Khari merges in the river Sabarmati at village Varsang of Matar taluka of the Kheda district. Near Raipur village, a Dam has been constructed on this river and a canal has been dug out. The water is supplied to the paddy fields.

The rivers in the district do not flow throughout the year, as such they are not navigable. Only in times of floods the river Sabarmati is crossed with the help of a crude craft or a big earthern pot (*Goli*).

Geology

STRATIGRAPHY

The surface stratigraphy alongwith average thickness of different formations and general lithology of the Tertiary sediments met with in this area, based on electrology and rock cuttings and core data, is given below:

| Age 1 | Formation 2 | Thickness in meters 3 | Lithology 4 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | Gujarat Alluvium | 90 | Unconsolidated coarse sand, pebbly with <i>kankar</i> and minor clays. |
| Post Miocene | Jambusar | 110 | Sand, coarse grained, occasional gravels and clays. |
| | Bharuch (Broach) | 115 | Greenish brown clays and sand-clay alternations with variegated claystone |
| .. | .. | Unconformity | .. .. .. |
| | Jhagadia | 230 | Greenish grey to variegated claystone with coarse to medium grained sand and minor coal. |
| Tertiary | Kand | 210 | Greenish grey claystone with occasional bands of medium to fine grained sands. |
| Miocene | Babaguru | 120 | Alternate bands of claystone and shale with minor sandstone beds. |
| | Tarkeswar | 120 | Shale with minor clays and claystone with coarse to medium grained sands towards bottom. |
| .. | .. | Unconformity | .. .. .. |
| Oligocene to Upper Eocene | Tarapur Shale | 145 | Grey to greenish grey shale with argillaceous sandstone in the basal part. |
| Upper Eocene to Mid. Eocene | Kalot | 330 | Grey to dark grey shale with silty sandstone, siltstone and coal beds with minor sideritic claystone. |
| .. | .. | Unconformity | .. .. .. |
| Lower Eocene | Cambay Shale Vagadkhola | 1300(+) | Dark grey to black fissile, pyritic carbonaceous shale with occasional siltstone bands towards bottom and reddish brown shale. The Khamhat (Cambay) shale facies changes towards the basin margin to Vagadkhola formation with the lithology of Trapconglomerate Trapwash and brown clay/claystone. |

GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

The sub-surface geological history of the Gandhinagar district has to be understood alongwith that of the entire Khambhat (Cambay) sedimentary basin as the area covered under this district forms a small part of it.

During Upper Cretaceous times tensional faults developed along basement trends and the first marine transgression from south took place in the basin. Thereafter sedimentation continued in the basin from Paleocene onwards under varying depositional environments. The four stages recognised in the evolution of the basin are (i) Wacke or Formative stage, (ii) Negative stage, (iii) Oscillatory or stage of inversion, and (iv) Positive stage.

In the first stage, trap conglomerates, silts and claystones were deposited under unstable conditions with an unconformity over Deccan Trap basalt floor. In the second stage uniform dark-grey to black fissile shale, pyritiferous at places and rich in organic matter was deposited under stable conditions. In the third stage carbonaceous grey shales with thin coal beds, silts and sandstones, sometimes in cyclic order, were deposited under unstable, oscillatory conditions. In the fourth stage chloritic, micaceous sands, pebbly towards top with variegated claystones, silty clays silts and thin carbonaceous streaks were deposited under conditions of unstable and positive movements in the basin.

The stratigraphic succession met with in the wells drilled in the district belong to the second, third and fourth stages described above.

Oil Exploration¹

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has carried out geophysical surveys in the Cambay basin of the State which also include the areas of Gandhinagar district. As a result of these surveys two sub-surface structures suitable for accumulation for Oil and Gas, were delineated. They are (1) Kalol field, a part of which falls in the Gandhinagar district, and (2) Vavol structural-nose. Out of many wells drilled on these structures, and on the eastern flank of the Cambay basin, two wells have been drilled to as far as 3,200 mts., and 3,070 mts. The first one was drilled on the southern part of the Kalol structure and the other on the Vavol structure. However, because of the large thickness of Tertiary sedimentary sequence none of these wells reached upto the Deccan Trap which is supposed to form the floor of the Cambay basin.

Wells drilled in the eastern part of the district have indicated that the Tertiary sequence thins down rapidly from west to east, and also rises sharply in that direction. This area lies in the eastern flank of the Cambay basin. The thickening of the sediments from east to west in the area of the district occurs along several north-south trending tensional faults with down throw towards west. These faults seem to have been active during sedimentation and extend down to the trap-besement.

1. Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehra Dun.

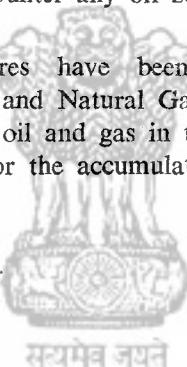
About three km., east of the eastern boundary of the district, a structural well *viz.*, Halisa-4 has been drilled. The sub-surface geological data indicate thinning of the Tertiary succession and sharp rise of the Trap-base ment in the eastern bank. In this well, the Deccan Trap was met with at a depth of 950 metres and non-commercial shoals of thick residual oil was found in the Eocene section.

OIL FIND IN THE GANDHINAGAR DISTRICT¹

Oil and Gas bearing horizons have been encountered in the Kalol formation in Kalol and Vavol structures. In Indroda area occurrence of oil in the fractured shale of the Indroda formation of the lower and Middle Eocene age is of special interest. The oil occurs in an essentially shale succession which does not have reservoir characteristics. It is believed that the oil is contained in the fractured shale. The well drilled in Valad area south of Indroda did not encounter any oil zone.

A few subsurface structures have been delineated by the Seismic Survey conducted by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission since the year 1960 followed by drilling for oil and gas in the Gandhinagar district. The structures found favourable for the accumulation of oil and gas are mentioned below:

1. Kalol field (in Parts).
2. Vavol field.
3. Indroda field.
4. Valad field.



Oil and gas have been discovered at Kalol, Vavol and Indroda. The stratigraphic sequence drilled through in these areas is of Tertiary age and the Volcanic trap forms the basement. The summary of the data obtained from individual structures is given below:

1. *The Kalol Field*—The Kalol field is a large oil and gas bearing structure and the south-eastern part of the field extends into the Gandhinagar district. In this part of the structure, 66 wells have been drilled out of which 47 are oil bearing, 9 gas bearing, 7 are yet to be tested and 3 wells are dry.

1. The Deputy Director of Geology, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Tel Bhavan, Dehra Dun.

2. *The Vavol Field*—The Vavol field is situated about 12 miles (19 km.) to the east of Kalol town and 15 miles (24 km.) north of Ahmadabad city. There are two small structural noses about a mile (1.60 km.) to the east to Vavol village which was indicated by the Seismic Survey conducted during 1960-61.

In all 5 wells have been drilled so far on these structural noses out of which only one well is oil bearing at a depth of about 1,325 metres. The production of oil from the field is being obtained through one well.

3. *The Indroda Field*—The Indroda field is situated about 5 miles (8 km.) to the north-east of Indroda village and about 7 miles (11 km.) to the east of Vavol village. Seismic Survey conducted during the year 1960-61 indicated a steep rise of the eastern flank of the basin and the Tertiary sequence overlying the Deccan Trap thins down along the eastern margin of the basin in this area. The pay zones of Kalol area are devoid of hydrocarbons in Indroda but a shale section about 200 metres below, is found to be oil bearing in the first well drilled in 1971. A total of 3 wells have been drilled so far out of which one is oil bearing. Production of oil is being obtained from one well.

4. *The Valad Field*—One well has been drilled to a depth of 1,605 metres about 2 miles (3.20 km.) south-east of Valad village and was abandoned as no oil or gas bearing layer was found.

Ground Water

सत्यमेव जयते

In the villages of Kalol taluka merged at present in the district, water is available at the depth of 90 feet (27.43 metres). In respect of tube-wells the water is available at the depth of 350 feet (106.68 metres). The water is available at 150 feet level in the areas adjoining Sabarmati river. The tube-wells in these areas get water whenever trap occurs. The water of the villages of Por, Zundal and Adalaj is brackish and unsuitable for agriculture. It may be stated that the stock of underground water is slowly depleting. This is evident from the fact that at Unava the water is available from tube-wells at the depth of 500 feet (152.40 metres).

Flora

FORESTS

The forests of Gandhinagar district fall under 'Dry Deciduous Forest' type according to Champion's classification. Effects of biotic factors and soil conditions have affected the forests. The whole district is green with vegetation containing number of trees such as *Zizyphus mauritiana* (*Bordi*),

Magnifera indica (*Ambo*), *Ficus infectoria* (*Piplo*), etc. The development and utilisation of forest resources is an integral part of the programme for the optimum land utilization. Forest also provides food and shelter to precious fauna and gives recreational centres which are so much needed in this hectic industrial age. Forests have important protective as well as productive functions. They not only supply timber, fuel, fodder and variety of other products but also have a moderating influence against floods and erosion and help to maintain soil fertility. A number of industries, such as, construction, furniture, paper, rayon, plywood, matches, resin and tanning depend on forest for supply of raw materials. Development of forest is also essential for raising the income of the tribal people. The four main functions of the forests, so vital to economy are:

- (1) Conservation of water resources,
- (2) Mitigation of floods,
- (3) Conservation of soil which reduces sedimentation of river valley projects, dams and canals, and
- (4) Habitat for wildlife.

The district is not fortunate in having adequate forest resources.

The Gandhinagar district consists of the areas of the Ahmadabad and the Mahesana districts. It has a very little area under forests. In fact, the Forest Department has obtained about 1,400 acres of land from the Public Works Department for the purpose of rearing trees thereon, so that the trees can help containing soil erosion in the *Kotar* lands along the bank of the river Sabarmati. The district mostly contains the trees and plants shown in the Statement I.1 given at the end of the Chapter. In the ravines *Diospyrose montana* (*Dheki*) and *Azadirachta indica* (*Lindo*) are found quite common in the protected locality. These trees are recognizable from a distance because of their lush green crowns in contrast to lighter colour of other species like *A. senegal* (*Gorad*), *A. catechu* (*Khair*), *Zizyphus mauritiana* (*Bordi*), *Prosopis spicigera* (*Khijdo*) which also occur in the ravine lands.

Major and Minor Forest Produce and Customary Rights

As a major forest produce, some amount of firewood is available whenever dead and dying trees are removed and sold out. As regards the minor forest produce some *hor* fruits are available from the ravines

containing *bor* bushes. There is no other forest produce being farmed out from the forest area of the district because the Forest Department is still developing the forests by taking up plantations of the useful trees. There are no customary rights except those of way and water course and the villagers are permitted to enjoy them in those areas except where the plantations are undertaken. The privilege of free grazing is also enjoyable by the public in areas other than plantation. However, people are allowed to cut and remove grass free of charge from such closed areas.

Development of Forest Areas

Since 1965 Forest Department is carrying out soil and moisture conservation as well as afforestation works in the ravine lands on the banks of the river Sabarmati. In order to provide better surroundings and bio-aesthetic setting for the Capital and also to reduce the bad effects of desicating winds which blow over the sandy vast stretches during the summer, the Capital Project Authorities have decided to plant trees on a large scale and work has been entrusted to the Forest Department which is now taking up planting and rearing of large number of trees every year. The work is going on for the last 5 years and nearly 3 lakh trees have been planted in the Capital area. These trees will have an ameliorating effect on the eco-complex of the locality. The Forest Department in the district is entrusted with the duty of the extension forestry. Every year about a lakh of seedlings are now being reared up for supply to the public interested in *Vana Mahotsava*. The Department has taken up raising of village forest also under the programme of Extension Forestry. During 1974 village forest over 20 hectares had been raised in the *Gauchar* areas of Adalaj village.

The Forest Department is also entrusted with the task of collecting revenue from about 7,000 mango trees scattered throughout the limits of Gandhinagar town. Every year a sum of Rs. 15,000 is collected from the original owners who have been permitted to collect mango fruits from the trees.

Legal Position—According to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 the forest area under the district falls in the category of "Unclassed Forests".

Working Plan—So far as the working plan is concerned, no regular plan has yet been drawn up because the present the division is connected mainly with the plantation and rearing of trees in the areas that are being earmarked by the Capital Project Authorities as per the requirements of the architectural planning.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILD LIFE

In the past, hunting was controlled and regulated under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was applicable to the Government forest only and was, therefore, ineffective for dealing with wildlife offences committed in non-forest areas and lands of private ownership. It was the erstwhile State of Bombay which gave a pioneering lead to the rest of the country by enacting an exemplary piece of legislation known as the Bombay Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1951, which was extended to forest as well as non-forest areas. After the formation of Gujarat State, this Act was suitably amended and promulgated as the Gujarat Wild Animals and Wild Birds Protection Act, 1963. The salient features of this Act are as follows:

(1) The Act classifies the wild life of the State into different categories, viz., small game, big game and special big game, for each of which a separate kind of game licence has been prescribed. These game licences, which are valid for the entire State of Gujarat, can be obtained from the Wild Life Preservation Officer or from the Wild Life Wardens on payment of monthly or annual fees at the following rates:

| Item | | Monthly fees in Rs. | Annual fees in Rs.] |
|--------------------------|----|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Small Game Licence | .. | सत्यम् व जयने | 10 |
| Big Game Licence | .. | .. | 30 |
| Special Big Game Licence | .. | | Not being issued at present |

The species permitted to be shot on these game licences and the bag limits prescribed are as under:

(i) Small Game Licence : One bluebull, one wild boar, one hyaena, one wolf, hares and feathered game (no limit).

(The close season for small game extends from 1st April to 30th September).

(ii) Big Game Licence : One panther and one sloth bear (There is no close season for big game).

Certain harmful species have been declared as vermin and no game licence is required for shooting the same. However, a free permit from the Divisional Forest Officer is required to be obtained for shooting vermin. The following animals, birds and reptiles are completely protected :

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Lion | 10 | Four-horned Antelope |
| 2 | Wild Ass | 11 | Rusty spotted Cat |
| 3 | Hunting Cheetah | 12 | Pigmy Hog |
| 4 | Tiger | 13 | Great Indian Bustard |
| 5 | Sambhar | 14 | Flamingo |
| 6 | Cheetal | 15 | Peafowl |
| 7 | Barking Deer | 16 | Pink-headed Duck |
| 8 | Black Buck | 17 | White-winged Wood Duck. |
| 9 | Chinkara | 18 | Crocodile |

There is no system of shooting blocks in this State. Besides the above game licences, licences are also issued for trapping and possessing pet animals and birds and for dealing in trophies.

- (2) It prohibits unsporting methods of hunting.
- (3) It provides for the destruction of dangerous animals which have become a menace to human life or property.
- (4) It provides for the compounding of offences against wild life out of court, failing which the offender can be prosecuted and punished on conviction.
- (5) It provides for the setting up of a State Wild Life Advisory Board comprising officials and non-officials to advise the State Government on matters and problems pertaining to wildlife. This Board works in close liaison with the Indian Board for Wild Life.
- (6) It provides for the establishment of Wild Life Sanctuaries.

Fauna

WILD ANIMALS

The Mammals of the Gandhinagar district apart from the very conspicuous and ubiquitous domesticated animals, are rather unobtrusive and small in size. The larger wild animals like the antelopes, deer, wild pig, among the herbivorous, and the panther and tiger, the wolf and the hyaena among the carnivorous have long since been exterminated by destruction of their habitats and the intense use of the land put to human use. There are however still many small mammals which are active mainly at

night and which retire during the daylight hours into burrows or thick shrubberies to hide from human beings. Among these the largest and possibly the most familiar is the close relative of the dog, the Jackal *Canis aureus*, the smaller Indian Fox *Vulpes benghalensis* is less seen but can be recognised by its smaller size and bushy tail. The Small Indian Civet *Vivericula indica* has an elongated body with short limbs. It is quite plentiful and freely enters villages and even inhabits densely populated areas but remains largely out of sight being highly nocturnal. This is an useful animal. It is likely that the Desert Cat *Felis libyca* is often overlooked as its domestic progenitor and is commoner than thought along the hedge-rows and thickets in wastelands. All these species belong to the Order Carnivora. The Common Langur or Hanuman Monkey *Presbytis entellus* is met in small family parties below or among avenue trees and frequently enter human areas. The Order Insectivora is represented by rather small mammals of which the most familiar is the Grey Musk Shrew *Suncus murinus* which enters houses after dusk to run about along walls uttering high pitched squeaks. It is a very valuable animal to have around the house on account of the fact that it destroys cockroaches and is intolerant of rats and mice. The Pale Hedgehog *Paraechinus micropus* is covered with short, sharp prickles which are effective for protection when the little-animal rolls up into a ball on sensing danger. The various species of small bats are not easy to identify, though people are familiar with them squeaking in rafters and ceilings of houses, the strange, musty smell of their urines, the black droppings below their residence and their wavering flight around houses at dusk. They all perform a singular service by capturing insects on the wing. On the other hand, the large Indian Flying Fox or Fruit Bat *Pteropus giganteus* sleeps in communal roosts in large trees during day and fly out in all directions at dusk. They are to be commonly seen skimming down over water before flying off to a forage into night. Flying foxes cause considerable damage to ripening fruits. A common sight is to see a flying fox hanging electrocuted on electricity mains, the dead animal remaining there till the body dries in the hot sun.

The Fivestriped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennantii* is a very familiar little animal, freely entering houses and often constructing its large globular nest of grasses and rags in rafters. It is a charming little animal and often becomes quite tame. The various species of rats, *Rattus* sps., larger bandicoots *Bandicoota* sps., mice *Musa* sps., and *Milardia* sps. and the micelike gerbilles of sandy fields of the genus *Tatera* sps. are all active at night and except the rats, bandicoots and mice are rarely seen. They are as a group rather harmful to man on account of the damage they do to grain and crops growing in fields. They are kept under control by snakes, owls and the common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi* the latter an elongated animal with short legs and a tail as long as the body.

The Indian Porcupine *Hystrix indica* is now far less frequent than formerly and its presence in the area can be noted by the black and white spines which may be found along country paths. These spines are effective means of defence in the wild forest. Even large animals like tigers and leopards tend to leave these otherwise harmless animals alone. On account of the occasional damage, the porcupine does to sugarcane and fruits, farmers tend to be intolerant of its presence in their areas. The Indian Hare *Lepus nigricollis* is still holding out among grass and scrub areas despite it being trapped for its flesh.

BIRDS

Like other parts of the State, the Gandhinagar avian population is both rich in numbers and varied in species. The fertile soil, plenty of subsoil water, the adjacent Sabarmati river with the newly constructed weir across it, the well tended fields, the large number of big and shady groves of mangoes and other trees, the intensive tree-planting programme launched by the Forest Department, the newly created forest area along the ravines of the river, the broad space in the capital area and the gardens with their flowering shrubs and trees all create a fine living area for a large number of birds having different habitats. This admixture is further enriched by the fact that Gandhinagar lies in the transitional areas of the drier thorny forest regions of north Gujarat and the semi deciduous forest zone of heavier rainfall of south Gujarat. A glance at the map of the State will show the pivotal location of the district as a geographical unit. This unit lies on the intersection of major migratory routes such as the routes starting from the Indus valley route to the north-west into peninsular India and the Malabar Coast to the south-east and south respectively, and the Aravali migratory route through north Gujarat into Saurashtra, Arabia and towards East Africa to the west. Gandhinagar, like the national capital Delhi, may well rank among the bird capitals of the world.

The birds may be classified into residents, that is birds which remain with us throughout the year and nest with us, the winter visitors which spend the cool months of the year returning to more northern latitudes in summer to nest, the autumnal and spring passage migrants which are with us for short duration on their way to and from the winter areas, and the rainy season breeding visitors which arrive with the South West Monsoon and after raising their young depart with the rains. Their numbers may fluctuate according to the seasons. The winter visitors arrive at the end of the summer rains and depart by the onset of the hot weather in March and April. The passage migrants may be seen for a very short time in October and November, which are the peak months for the autumn migration and March and April for the spring migration. Some of the autumn

passage migrants which are very plentiful at that time of the year may be totally absent on the spring passage suggesting a different route for their return migration. Flowering trees and swarming of insects may attract more birds for a short time while a series of heavy monsoons may encourage birds of wetlands to be more widespread, conversely a series of droughts may make these and other species withdraw and bring about an intrusion of desert forms particularly in the cool months, and very cold winters may drive normally non-visitors into our area.

Like most parts of Gujarat, a detailed systematic list of the birds of the Gandhinagar environment has not been prepared, and this brief survey should provide an introduction to study of birds. The discussion is based on Order at Family levels with brief mention of individual species.

Order Podicipentiformes

The single Family PODICIPETIDAE the Grebes, has small to medium sized aquatic birds which at first glance resemble duck, but with sharp bills. Much of the food, composed of aquatic plants, insect larvae, crustaceans, tadpoles and small fish, is procured by diving often in quite deep water. The Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis* is a resident of fresh water. During the South West Monsoon, pairs will resort to roadside ditches and as such is widely distributed. The nest is a mass of floating vegetation often quite out in the open and without any attempt at concealment, though the eggs are covered whenever the brooding bird leaves the nest. Once aloft, however, they fly fast and far. Other species are likely to be met occasionally on large sheets of water during the winter.

Order Pelecaniformes

This Order of fish-eating birds has two families with us, the PELECANIDAE the Pelicans and the PHALACROCORADIDAE the Cormorants and Snake-birds. There are two species of pelicans, the Rosy Pelican *Pelicanus onocrotalus* and the Grey Pelican *P. philippensis*, both large, white birds with huge bills having pouches for scooping large fish out of the water, and very similar appearances. The cormorants are medium large to medium in size and black, they swim low in the water and dive after fish, when resting they sit on the water's edge with wings extended. The smaller, all black Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* is found on small ponds of water and may be met singly or in flocks. The Larger Cormorant *P. carbo* shows considerable amount of white colour and is less widespread and with the Snake-bird *Anhinga rufa* which is recognised by its long, serpentine neck is to be expected on bigger sheets of water. All the three are residents with considerable local movement.

Order Ciconiiformes

This Order contains the Herons and their allies Family ARDEIDAE, the storks Family CIONIIDAE, the ibises and spoonbill Family THRESKIODNITHIDAE and the flamingos Family PHOENICOPTERIDAE. These all are birds with long legs for wading out into the water and prominent bills. The flamingos are not likely to be found in our area though they are regular and fairly plentiful on the Nal Sarovar. There are several species of resident and migratory herons and egrets and their close allies the bitterns, all of which feed largely on fish, frogs, etc. The Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* and the all white Large Egret *Egretta alba* are to be looked for along the Sabarmati, the very much smaller, white Smaller Egret *E. intermedia* and the Little Egret *E. garzetta* are also common and seen in flocks. The white Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* is found away from water attending on grazing cattle and farmers ploughing. The Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* is plentiful and seen singly motionless besides the smallest and mudiest pond, very cryptically coloured and revealing itself in a flash of white wings when taking light. Bitterns are also cryptically coloured and of retiring nature inhabiting waterside vegetation and as such are seldom seen and that too very briefly. All species of this Family draw the long neck into the back in flight but trail the legs behind. They spring lightly into the air. The resident species of herons and egrets nest during the rains in colonies with other marshy birds, sitting their nests of stick platforms on inundated trees. The storks are all large birds with long legs and necks and pronounced bills. The commonest resident and most familiar stork is the Painted Stork *Ibis leucocephalus*, a white bird with black markings on the wings and a long yellow downcurved bill. Whitenecked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* is quite familiar. Several other storks occur in our area both resident species from other parts of the country and winter visitors. All storks fly well and cover great distances in search of suitable water, and they are particularly given to soaring for great lengths of time and at considerable heights on thermals. Storks nest in colonies on large trees often one growing in the middle of a village. The ibises are medium large birds with distinctive long, downcurved bills. The Black Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* is a common resident seen probing along ditches and in often quite dry fields. This species is recognised from the smaller Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* by white patches on the shoulders which are particularly noticeable in flight and a bare red crown. The latter is more a waterside bird and chiefly seen in winter. The White Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephala* and the slightly larger Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* are both waterside birds, with white plumage, the ibis has a distinctive black head and curved bill, while the spoonbill has a characteristic ladle-shaped bill. The two latter species are colonial nesters with egrets and storks during the rains while the Black Ibis is more solitary, nesting on tall trees in cities if need arises.

Order Anseriformes

This Order is represented in our area by a single Family the ANATIDAE the Ducks and Geese. The Spotbill Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*, the Lesser Whistling Teal *Dendrocygna javinica*, the large, black and white Nukta *Sarkidiornis melanotos* and the very diminutive Cotton Teal *Nettapus coromandelianus* are all resident and may be seen on water throughout the year. They nest in suitable places during the height of the monsoon rains. All the other, very many species of ducks are winter visitors. The commonest, and seen even on the smallest roadside ditch is the Shoveller *Anas clypeata* in which the drake has a distinctive green head, white breast and chestnut flanks while both the sexes have a broad, shovel-shaped bill. Other species of the same genus form the majority of the ducks seen around the edges on pools in small and large flocks while on more open water small parties of diving ducks of the genera *Aythya*, may also be seen. The large, orange coloured Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* may be looked for along the edges of larger village reservoirs or the Sabarmati where they may be seen grazing on the grassy verges in pairs or small parties. Identification of various forms of duck is best done by looking for the drakes with their distinctive plumages. In particularly cold winters the numbers of duck on our water may be considerable while in mild years very few may be seen.

Order Falconiformes

All the raptors or birds of prey other than the owls, belong to this Order. The kites, hawks, buzzards, harriers, small eagles, large eagles and vultures are grouped together as the ACCIPITRIDAE while the swift falcons form a separate Family the FALCONIDAE of their own. The Kite *Milvus migrans* with its forked tail, long wings and soaring flight is a common bird around human settlements, the round tailed cinnamon and white headed Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* is met with in pairs near large trees close to water while the elegant Blackwinged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* with its hovering flight is a bird resident among fields and seen perched on telegraph poles. The Shikra *Accipiter badius* a round winged hawk may be seen soaring along with larger birds of prey when its pale coloured form, rounded wings and tail and very much smaller size make for immediate identity. Another resident bird and seen perched on telegraph poles particularly in open country is the non-descript White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle. It is immediately recognised by its pale coloured wings and white marking on the nape and around the eyes. The Bonelli's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus fasciatus* is a small eagle about the size of a kite but with rounded tail and showing white underparts contrasting with the dark wings while soaring.

While the equally large Honey Buzzard *Pernis pilorhyncus* is identified by its more laboured flight and bars on the tail. Among the large eagles, the Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* is recognised by its large broad wings and rounded tail; at rest it may be confused for a kite. In flight its large size is immediately noticed. Among the vultures the White Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* a scraggy feathered white bird with black flight feathers and wedgeshaped tail and yellow bill, the large White-backed Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* recognised by its bare head and neck and dark body with a white patch on the back and white lines in the wings is seen in overhead flight, and the smaller and non-descript Indian Longbilled Vulture *G. indicus* are all common around village refuse dumps. The first two breed in our area constructing huge platforms of sticks and branches in large trees. It is always difficult to identify the various forms of raptors other than those mentioned above because many of them have light and dark colour phases and distinct juvenile plumage to add to the confusion. The harriers of the genus *Circus* are winter visitors and are immediately recognised by their low, gliding flight with long wings held in a broad V above the back and long tail, specific identity, however, is confusing. Our resident raptors breed in the cool season and in the earlier part of the hot season. There are five species of falcons all of the genus *Falco* in our area and may be seen dashing after birds. The resident species are the slender, silver-grey Redheaded Merlin *F. chicquera* and the Lanner Falcon *F. biarmicus* which is brown above and white below. In winter the Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* with a brick-red back and bluish-grey fanned tail and hovering flight is very common and widely distributed. This last falcon subsists mainly on large insects, lizards, etc., while the other falcons are all swift killers of birds.

Order Galliformes

The Family PHASIANIDAE of this Order is represented by the domestic fowl and the semi-domesticated Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*. All the other members of this group of birds are considerably smaller and very cryptically coloured. The Grey Partridge *Francolinus pondicerianus* is the commonest. The Painted Partridge *F. pictus* is more solitary and less seen while the small Blackbreasted Rain Quail *Coturnix coromandelica* and the Rock Bush Quail *Perdicula argoondah* are both great skulkers and largely seen when they burst into flight almost under the feet of the walker. In winter the slightly larger Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* is fairly common in grass and fields. Peafowl and partridges roost at night on trees, while quail do so on the ground. They all lay rather large clutches of eggs and the chicks are active and follow the parents very soon after hatching. The nesting season is during the south west monsoon when there is ample ground cover for nesting in and food for the young birds.

Order Gruidae

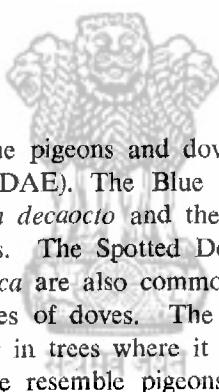
This Order contains three terrestrial families of which two, the TURNICIDAE the Bustard Quails and the GRUIDAE the Cranes, birds of open country, often semidesert, while the third the RALLIDAE the Moorhens, Coots and their allies are all marshy birds and great skulkers. The bustard quails are the smallest among birds apart from some of the passerines and very much resemble the quail in superficial structure and habitat preferences but, the prominence of the Family lies in the fact that the female is larger, more brightly coloured and aggressive, and it is she who courts the male, stakes a territory and is polyandrous, while the male is the one who cares for the eggs and chicks. Three species of the genus *Turnix* are likely to be seen in our area. The cranes, of which the Sarus *Grus antigone* is our largest bird, are conspicuous birds both because of their large size and habitat preference of open fields and waterside pastures and flats. The Sarus is resident and seen in pairs or small family parties. Protected by sentiment, this grand bird is a common sight of the area and is confiding and tolerant of human activity. The Common Crane *Grus grus* and the Demoiselle Crane *Anthropoides virgo* are both found in flocks during the winter when they feed in stubble and rest beside water along larger rivers and reservoirs. Their flight across the sky is a pleasant sight. The RALLIDAE on the other hand has an assortment of species which apart from the Coot *Fulica atra* which forms rafts on open water during winter and are easily recognised by their black bodies and ivory-white bills, are seldom seen and are adept at keeping hidden. Among the commonest resident species is the Whitebreasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* and the most spectacular is the fowl-sized Purple Moorhen *Porphyrio porphyrio* which may be present in large numbers in one year and totally absent in others.

Order Charadriiformes

This Order is a very complex one with a large number of Families represented and these having species with a wide adaptation to meet a variety of feeding habits. They all, however, share a common habit of laying on the ground, often the nest being a mere scrape on the ground either on hard, sunbaked earth or riverside sand and shingle; The eggs are so marked that it is difficult to make to locate them. Many of the species are colonial nesters and resort to river banks, or near water to breed or may be solitary and nest in the open fields and pastures. Their feeding habits range from picking up insects on bare ground as by the plovers (CHARADRIIDAE), probing in wet mud by various species of waders (CHARADRIIDAE), picking insects off the surface of water as by stilts (RECURVIROSTRIDAE), capturing winged insects in rapid and sustained

flight like by the pratincoles (GLAREOLIDAE), or by flying over water and swooping down onto fish at its surface or plunging into it after them as is done by the gulls and terns (LARIDAE). The resident members of this large and varied group of birds are the Redwattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* the Blackwinged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* both common everywhere near the smallest village pool. In winter large flocks of waders arrive in bewildering multitudes to provide the bulk of the birds around muddy shores and along rivers. Interesting residential variations each representing a Family of its own are the Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* and the Pheasant tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*; the former (ROSTRATULIDAE) is a plump bird with a long bill with which it probes deep into mud for worms and has the female larger and brightly coloured showing polyandrous traits as in the button quails. The jacana is a marshy bird which has greatly elongated toes which permit it to walk with ease on floating water plants. It constructs a floating nest during the rains.

Order Columbiformes



This Order contains the pigeons and doves (COLUMBIDAE), and the sandgrouse (PTEROCLIDIDAE). The Blue Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*, the Ring Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* and the little Brown Dove *S. senegalensis* are familiar residents. The Spotted Dove *S. chinensis*, and the Red Turtle Dove *S. tranguubarica* are also common residents with typical habits of the more familiar species of doves. The Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicoptera* is to be looked for in trees where it lives in flocks feeding on wild fruits and figs. Sandgrouse resemble pigeons, but are ground birds and live in open country and the two species likely in our area are the Indian Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* of open pastures and the more brightly coloured Painted Sandgrouse *P. indicus* of scrub jungle and broken country and a likely sport to look for the bird in the ravines along the Sabarmati.

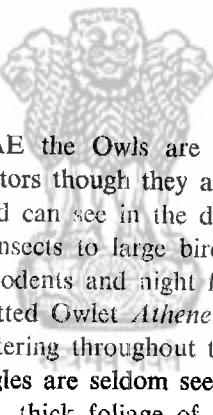
Order Psittaciformes

The single Family PSITTACIDAE is represented here by three species the Roseringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*, the Large Indian Parakeet *P. eupatria* and the Blossomheaded Parakeet *P. cyanocephala* of which the former is the commonest and resident, while the last two species of which one considerably large, while the last much smaller, is less common and apparently have some seasonal movement. All three are hole nesters and tend to move around in flocks. They are partial to large groves of trees, though the former is more widespread and frequents fields and scrub jungle. All three are popular cage birds and can be taught to speak.

Order Cuculiformes

Another Order with a single Family the CUCULIDAE has several species which are common, of which the Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea* with all the black males and the Crow-pheasant *Centropus sinensis* are familiar residents. The former is a brood parasite on the two species of crows but the latter rears its own young ones. The distinctive Pied Crested Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* is a rainy visitor coming over from East Africa to lay its eggs in the nests of our breeding babbiers. The Common Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus varius* is partly resident laying in the nests of small Passerine birds during the rains, while the Cuckoo, *C. canorus* is a late monsoon arrival and a few individuals winter in our area. The Sirkeer Cuckoo *Taccocua leschenaultii* is a great skulker partial to the standing crops and tangled hedgerows where it nests during the rainy season.

Order Strigiformes



The Family STRIGIDAE the Owls are nocturnal birds of prey and superficially resemble the raptors though they are in no way related to them. They have keen eye-sight and can see in the dark and are active in search of prey which ranges from insects to large birds, though the main food is composed of night foraging rodents and night flying insects. The commonest and most familiar is the Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* which is out at sundown and can be heard chattering throughout the night. Other owls, some of them as large as small eagles are seldom seen since they retire during the day into holes in tree trunks, thick foliage of old trees; or in clefts along eroded river banks. Their whereabouts are indicated by hoots, or screeches. Owls are largely resident, though some are partial migrants while one species, the Shorteared Owl *Asio flammeus*, is a winter visitor to be looked for among tall grass.

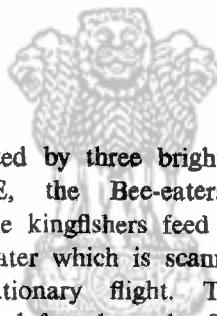
Order Caprimulgiformes

Closely related to Owls and nocturnal in habits, the CAPRIMULGIDAE the Nightjars are quite different in habits and body structure. They have elongated bodies with very short legs, long wings, and tail, large, luminous eyes and wide gapes. They spend the day resting on the ground where also they lay their two eggs, and fly around after dusk hawking night-flying insects. Their presence is indicated by their specific calls. The commonest species of our area is the Common Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus*. While on the ground, resting or incubating, nightjars are difficult

to see and they remain in sitting posture until almost stepped on when they take to wing and after a short wavering flight again alight among tangled vegetation. Their presence in even a small compound often goes unnoticed.

Order Apodiformes

The APODIDAE are represented by two small birds which are found in flocks, the House Swift *Apus affinis* and the Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*, the former around large building where they affix their nest of feathers glued to ceilings with their saliva and the latter around palms to the leaves of which they attach their feather nestpads. Swifts have long wings, and very small legs fit merely for clinging to walls, but totally incapable of permitting the bird to perch or land on the ground. The former species is recognised by its dark, smoky body and white rump while the later is plain brown.



Order Coraciiformes

This Order is represented by three brightly coloured Families, the Kingfishers ALCEDINIDAE, the Bee-eaters MEROPIDAE and the Rollers CORACIIDAE. The kingfishers feed largely on fish which they capture by plunging into water which is scanned keenly from an overhead perch or by hovering in stationary flight. The Lesser Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* should be looked for along the Sabarmati. The living gem the Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* a sparrow-sized bird with bright greens and blues above and chestnut below haunts reedy pools and the commonest the blue backed, chocolate-bodied Whitebreasted Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* with its coral red bill is found often away from water since it feeds also on insects and small reptiles. The bee-eaters are all largely bright green and perch on exposed perches, the most favoured being barbed wires of fences and overhead wires from where they launch into aerial sallies after flying insects. The commonest is the Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis*. The rollers have blue in their wings and are large and rather sluggish birds spending much time perched on exposed perches scanning the ground for moving prey, largely beetles and grasshoppers. The Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* is a resident and breeds during the hot season in holes of large tree trunks. The European Roller *C. garrulus* is a plentiful autumn passage migrant. The bee-eaters and kingfishers excavate long tunnels into mud embankments, the kingfishers singly over water while the bee-eaters colonially in driest locations. They also nest during the hot months. The curious Hoopoe *Upupa epops* with its long crest erected into a fan when annoyed, has long bill for probing for worms and fawn coloured body and zebra markings on the wings and tail. It is a lone species of the Family

CHAPTER I—GENERAL

UPUPIDAE. This species is a partial migrant, a few pairs breeding in the summer while large numbers arriving to spend the winter probing about lawns and homes along roadside under avenue trees. Hoopes nest in crevasses and under eves of houses.

Order Piciformes

This Order has two arboreal Families, the Barbets, CAPITONIDAE represented by the sparrow-sized and rotund Crimson-breasted Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* a green bird with crimson and yellow on the head and breast and the larger and more sombre Green Barbet *M. zeylanica*, and the woodpeckers, PICIDAE which are brightly coloured. The Lesser Goldenbacked Woodpecker *Dinopium benghalensis* in which the male has a crimson crest and the smaller Yellowfronted Pied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* among others deserve mention. Both barbets and woodpeckers hammer out nest-holes into heartwood of trees. Barbet is largely a frugivorous bird relishing figs of banyan and other ficus trees. The woodpeckers subsist on wood-boring larvae of beetles and insects lurking under the bark of trees. Barbets call attention to themselves by their repetitious calls while the woodpeckers can be recognised by their habit of clammering up tree trunks. Woodpeckers produce a characteristic drumming sound by rapidly striking wood with their bills.

Order Passeriformes

The passerines or song birds as the birds in this order are popularly known, form the large majority of the species of the bird population inhabiting gardens, cultivation and forest glades. The order is divided into a large number of Families and many of these contain a great many species. In size, the passerine birds range from very small to medium large; the smallest being the tiny Flowerpeckers, DICAEIDAE and the largest the Crows, CORVIDAE. The colours vary from non-descript browns with cryptic marking as in the Larks, ALAUDIDAE, plain olives and dusky greens of the various Warblers, some Flycatchers MUSCICAPIDAE, greys and blacks of the Wagtails, MOTACILLIDAE, Shrikes, LANIIDAE, blacks of the Crows, CORVIDAE the Drongos, DICRURIDAE; greens and yellows of some Wagtails, Ioras and Chaffbirds both of the Family IRENIDAE; bright yellows of the Orioles, ORIOLIDAE blues of certain Flycatchers and Thrushes, MUSCICAPIDAE; reds of the Minivets, XAMPETHAGIDAE, and combinations of these colours in a bright and astonishing array.

Being the most successful Order of birds, the passerines have occupied almost all the ecological niches except purely aquatic. The swallows *Hirundo* species and same martins *Riparia* species, HIRUNDINIDAE, feed on aerial

insects captured by swiftly flying about like the swifts, the difference being that they periodically settle on wires, or exposed perches to rest, the drongos and flycatchers perch on twigs and branches and make aerial sallies after flighting insects, while chats *Saxicola* sps., wheatears *Oenanthe* sps., of MUSCICAPIDAE, shrikes *Lanius* sps., LANIIDAE, keep a watch for moving insect prey from an exposed perch and fly down to capture it. The confusingly varied and non-descript warblers *Sylvia* sps., *Prinia* sps., *Acrocephalus* sps., and the colourful minivets *Pericrocotus* sps., CAMPEPHAGIDAE, and many other small insectivorous birds actively hunt among the foliage of trees, shrubs and frequently also hop about around in herbage and water vegetation, grass and even the ground. Babblers *Turdoides* sps., thrushes of different genera and smaller robins hop about on the ground turning leaves and rummaging among litter below trees and shrubs as does the colourful Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura*, PITIDAE. Various genera of larks, ALAUDIDAE, and pipits, *Anthus* sps., MOTACILLIDAE, inhabit open country and run over the ground where they subsist on insects, grubs and seeds. The relatives of the House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* the weavers *Ploceus* sps., the munias *Lonchura* sps., of the Family PLOCEIDAE, their very close relative the finches, FRINGILLIDAE, and the buntings, EMBERIZIDAE, are largely seed eaters and feed on the ground. The sunbirds, NECTARINIIDAE, the very small flowerpeckers already mentioned and White-eyes, ZOSTEROPIDAE, all subsist to a varying degree on flower nectar and insects inhabiting the tubes of flowers. They have bills, specially the former, which are slender and downcurved for probing corollas. Most birds, however, visit flowers for their nectar and insects. The bills of birds, and their habits show adjustments to make them ideal for the manner by which they procure their food.

The passerines mainly nest during the late hot season and into the rains. They are then very active and the males all display, fight for territories and sing a variety of songs some having very melodious whistles, sustained ditties, while other are proficient mimics interlarding their own sounds with those of other species inhabiting their area. The finest songsters in our area are the Dhayal *Copsychus saularis*, the Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* and the Golden Oriole *Oriolous oriolus* among others. The types of nest construction ranges from intricately woven nests of weavers, stitched nests of the Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* delicately woven cups and purses of the warblers, white-eyes and drongos, to deep, compact cups of bulbuls, ioras and some of the smaller babblers, to loosely put together cups and bell nests of the larger babblers and sparrows, pads or skimpy linings in holes as by some robins and tits, or a cup in a depression on the ground among grass or in complete open as by the larks. The swallows collect mud pellets and construct retort-shaped structures or brackets attached to cornices or undersides of arches while the sand martins burrow

tunnels into earthern embankments. Whereas a large number of passerines are residents, many of them have wintering forms while some of the families are largely winter visitors while a few are autumn passage migrants. During the non-breeding season, many of the species which resort to more forest locations spread out and may be then seen in gardens and groves for the rest of the year. By their colour, vivacity, song and interestingly varied habits, this Order of the avian kingdom contributes most to the natural life around our homes, gardens and farmland which dominate the Gandhinagar district.

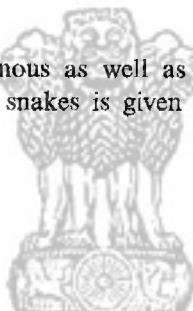
SNAKES

Snakes are limbless reptiles with dry sealy skins, which they cast off periodically. Such cast offs are called exuvia, which are used by some people for some medicinal purposes.

In the district both poisonous as well as non-poisonous snakes are found. A brief account of the snakes is given below:

NON-POISONOUS SNAKES

FAMILY : TYPHLOPIDAE



The Common Blind Snake (*Typhlops braminus*)—The snake grows to a length of about 18 cms., and is brownish with shining chocolate hue dorsally and light colour ventrally. The head and tail are slightly whitish. Its body is coverd by semi-circular scales. The tail is blunt with a small point. The head bears two rudimentary eyes.

The snake is found rotting in vegetation and is sometimes recovered from uncleaned bathrooms in rural homes. In soft earth it burrows rapidly. Its movement is jerky. It looks like an earthworm. The snake feeds on worms, soft-bodied insects and their larvae. The snake is oviparous and non-poisonous.

The Sand Boa (*Eryx conicus*)—The snake is found in the fields and near ponds. It is docile and slow moving. Its body is of pinkish grey colour and is covered by small scales.

The head is not distinguishable from the neck. The females are about double the length of the males which grow to length of about 50 cms. The eyes are very small with vertical pupils. The tail end is blunt with two spots

and the snake can crawl backwards also and hence it is erroneously known as the two headed snake. The ventrals are narrow and do not run across the belly. The snake feeds on frogs, toads, lizards and insects. The snake remains hidden in sandy soil. It often prefers to burrow in soft areas lying partly hidden where the body colour is in keeping with the colouration of surroundings. The snake is oviparous.

Eryx Johnii—This is another sand boa found in this district. Its body is of chocolate colour with brown irregular markings. These marks are edged by black border. The tail end is pointed and conical unlike that of *Eryx conicus*. The snake is more docile and is longer than the *Eryx conicus*.

FAMILY : BOIDAE

The Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosus*)-(Dhaman)—It is a non-poisonous agile snake of very common occurrence, usually found in bushes and hedges. It feeds on small birds and their eggs, frogs, lizards, rats, etc. Rodents are its favourite food and in this capacity it helps farmers. It reaches length of about 2.25 metres in males and 1.80 metres in females when full grown. Its body has yellow green colour with faint bands. The tail is slender and pointed.

The Common Wolf Snake (*Lycodon aulicus*)—It is another snake commonly met wth in this district. It grows to a length of about 75 cms. The body is brown coloured with grey spots edged with white. The snake can climb trees readily and on land shows active movements. It is very vicious and bites ferociously. Its main food consists of lizards, gekos and skinks. It also goes in for frogs and small mammals as well as bird eggs. It is nocturnal in habit and readily enters human habitations and is oviparous.

POISONOUS SNAKES

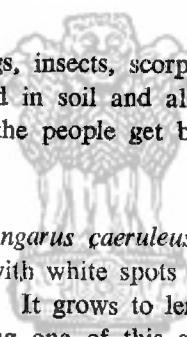
The Cobra—*Naja naja* (Nag)—The length of the cobra is about 1,800 mm. Its head is not very distinct from the neck. The snake has the characteristic hood which can be spread wide due to long erectile ribbones of the neck region. In a watchful and on-guard stance the hood is spread and the front part of the body is held upright in readiness for attack. The *nag* is a common snake with the charmers and is worshipped by many people on the *Nag Panchmi* day of the month of Shravan.

The snake is mainly a resident of open land and fields, but may also be found near human habitations. It feeds on small animals like rats, shrews, frogs, birds, etc. Its poison has strong neurotoxic effect There is less pain

slight swelling, irritation and death is due to respiratory failure. If sufficient amount of venom is injected by this snake, the only remedy is the antivenim.

FAMILY : VIPERIDAE

The Small Indian Viper (*Echis carinatus*)—The snake is known as *Nano Chitalo* in Gujarati. It grows to a length of about 60 cms., and lives in dry places underneath stones, logs of wood and bushes. The body is greyish brown with irregular dirty white markings on the dorsal side of it. The ventral side is white and is covered by broad scales. The head is triangular and is distinct in front of a constricted narrow neck. The head is covered by keeled scales and bears a typical white arrow mark on it. Whenever it is disturbed it coils the body in the form of figure '8' put transversely. Also it hisses with the sound *phoo*, hence it is known as *phoorsa*.



The snake feeds on frogs, insects, scorpions and lizards. Being small and laying under stones and in soil and also because of the colouration being akin to surroundings, the people get bitten before they are aware of the presence of this snake.

The Common Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*) *Kalotaro*—This snake is of shining steel blue in colour with white spots arranged in transverse rows on the dorsal side of the body. It grows to length of about 150 cms., and is deadly poisonous. The young one of this snake is mistaken for the wolf snake. The ventral side is dirty white and is covered by broad ventrals. The head is not distinct from the neck. This snake is nocturnal in habit and lives in cracks of walls or in heaps of stones, or bricks. The snake feeds on mice, frogs, toads and small birds. It is poisonous and its venom is neurotoxic. There is not much pain at the site of the bite but in about an hour the patient feels sleepy and unless an antivenom is given in time, and sufficient lethal dose of venom is injected, the patient may not survive.

FISH

Fishing activity is on a negligible scale in the Gandhinagar district. Only a few persons carry on it in some ponds or in the Sabarmati and the Khari rivers. However, this activity does not provide substantial work and income to the people all the year round. Thus, there are no fisheries activities in the district.

In Sachivalaya at Gandhinagar the Department of Fisheries has installed a few aquarium tanks with various types of fishes for exhibition.

CLIMATE¹

The climate of this district is characterised by hot summer, cool winter and general dryness except in the southwest monsoon months. The cold season from December to February is followed by the hot season from March to May. The period from June to September is the southwest monsoon season followed by the transition or post-monsoon period of October-November.

Temperature

There is only one meteorological observatory, viz. at Gandhinagar which started functioning only recently. Therefore, the following description is based on the records of meteorological observatories in the neighbouring districts, with climatic conditions similar to those of the district. Temperature increases rapidly from February to May which is the hottest month with the mean maximum temperature at 41°C and mean minimum at 26°C . On individual days maximum temperatures may occasionally exceed 48°C . With the onset of the monsoon by about mid-June, the day temperatures drop considerably, while there is no appreciable change in night temperatures during the monsoon. Withdrawal of southwest monsoon by about the end of September causes rise in day temperatures till October, but the nights become cooler. From November day and night temperatures begin to drop rapidly. January is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum at 29°C and the mean daily minimum at about 14°C . The district is sometimes affected severely by cold waves in the wake of the western disturbances which pass across north India causing the minimum temperature to drop nearly to freezing point. The diurnal variations in temperature are large, being about 8°C during the monsoon to around 15°C in the rest of the year. The Statement I. 2 shows the average maximum and minimum temperatures during each month for the years 1951 to 1960.

Humidity

In the monsoon months the relative humidity is generally 65 per cent or more but the rest of the year is comparatively dry. March and April are the driest months when humidity is less than 45 per cent, dropping to 20 per cent or less in the afternoon.

1. The Deputy Director General of Observatories, (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona.

During winter period (December to February) the relative humidity is generally 55 per cent in the morning and 27 per cent in the evening while in the post-monsoon period (October to November) they are generally 58 per cent and 32 per cent in morning and evening respectively.

Cloudiness

During the southwest monsoon season, particularly in July and August the skies are heavily clouded. During the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear to lightly clouded.

Winds

Winds are generally light except in the late summer and the early part of the southwest monsoon season when they are moderate to strong. The winds are generally southwesterly to westerly during April to September. They are variable in October particularly in the morning tending to become west to southwesterly in the afternoon. During November to March northerly to northwesterly winds prevail particularly in the mornings, while they are back to west or southwest towards the afternoon specially from January. The Statement I.3 shows percentage allocation of wind direction taken as an average of the period 1889 to 1950.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall in the district is about 630 mm., generally increasing from west to east. About 95 per cent of the annual rainfall is received during the southwest monsoon season. July is the雨iest month which accounts for as much as 45 per cent of the annual rainfall, the next rainy month, viz., August contributing about 25 per cent. Variation in rainfall from year to year is large. For example, the nearby station Ahmadabad has recorded as much as 230 per cent of annual rainfall in 1927 and as little as 30 per cent in 1919. Ahmadabad has also recorded heavy rainfall of 474.5 mm. on 24th July 1905, which was just about 60 per cent of the station's normal annual rainfall.

There are about 30 rainy days (*i.e.* days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. or more) in a year, on an average in the district. This indicates that the rainfall mostly occurs as showers.

In 1936-37 there was heavy rainfall in the district. The Ashram at Unava was totally submerged in the water. It was also reported in "Gujarat Samachar" dated 22nd September, 1975 that relief operations saved lives of students and teachers.

The distribution of rainfall over the district is uneven. The number of rainy days and rainfall at the district headquarters, during the 5 years upto 1970 are tabulated below:

| Year 1 | Number of rainy days | | | Annual rainfall in mm. 3 |
|-----------|-------------------------|----|----|--------------------------------|
| | 2 | | 3 | |
| 1966 | .. | .. | .. | 609.2 |
| 1967 | .. | .. | .. | 986.3 |
| 1968 | .. | .. | .. | 892.3 |
| 1969 | .. | .. | .. | 469.5 |
| 1970 | .. | .. | .. | 1,201.9 |

Source :

Census of India, 1971, *Administrative Atlas*, (1972), pp. 63-64.

Special Weather Phenomena

In association with some cyclonic storms from the Arabian Sea which move towards the district and the neighbourhood mostly during April, May, June and October, and in association with occasional depressions from the Bay of Bengal which approach the district during the monsoon, the district experiences gusty winds and widespread heavy rains and thunderstorms. Duststorms occur occasionally in April and May.

CHAPTER I—GENERAL

STATEMENTS





सत्यमेव जयते

STATEMENT I.1

Important Trees and Shrubs found in Gandhinagar District

| Sl. No. 1 | Botanical name 2 | Local name 3 | Main uses 4 |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| (a) TREES | | | |
| 1. | <i>Acacia nilotica</i> | <i>Baval</i> | Wood for agricultural implements. |
| 2. | <i>Acacia senegal</i> | <i>Gorad</i> | Firewood; Gum has medicinal value. |
| 3. | <i>Alangium lamarkii</i> | <i>Ankol</i> | Soft wood. |
| 4. | <i>Albizia lebbek</i> | <i>Siris</i> | Wood good for timber. |
| 5. | <i>Azadirachta indica</i> | <i>Limdo</i> | Possesses medicinal properties—wood good for various uses. |
| 6. | <i>Butea monosperma</i> | <i>Khakhro</i> | Leaves for fodder; and feeding plates; (<i>Patrala</i>) possesses medicinal properties also. |
| 7. | <i>Casuarina tomentosa</i> | <i>Umbh</i> | Wood used for carving. |
| 8. | <i>Cassia fistula</i> | <i>Amallas</i> | Pods have laxative properties. |
| 9. | <i>Cassia siamea</i> | <i>Kasid</i> | Fast growing. |
| 10. | <i>Cordia dichotoma</i> | <i>Gundo</i> | Fruits pickled. |
| 11. | <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> | <i>Sissoo</i> | Wood good for timber. |
| 12. | <i>Delonix regia</i> | <i>Gul mahor</i> | Beautiful flowers. |
| 13. | <i>Diosphros montana</i> | <i>Dheki</i> | Wood used as fuel. |
| 14. | <i>Emblica officinalis</i> (<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>) | <i>Amla</i> | Fruit quite nutritious. |
| 15. | <i>Ficus benghalensis</i> | <i>Vad</i> | Very good shady tree. |
| 16. | <i>Ficus religiosa</i> | <i>Pipalo</i> | -do- |
| 17. | <i>Ficus glomerata</i> | <i>Gular</i> | Fruit edible. |
| 18. | <i>Ficus infectoria</i> | <i>Pipal</i> | Good shady tree. |
| 19. | <i>Gymnosporia montana</i> | <i>Viklo</i> | Fuel wood. |
| 20. | <i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> | <i>Charal, Kanaji</i> | Wood used for carving. |
| 21. | <i>Madhuca latifolia</i> | <i>Mahuda</i> | Timber tree; Flowers used for food, seeds give oil. |
| 22. | <i>Mangifera indica</i> | <i>Ambo</i> | Good fruit tree, yielding timber also. |
| 23. | <i>Mimusops hexandra</i> | <i>Rayan</i> | Gives tasty fruits. |
| 24. | <i>Peltophorum ferrugineum</i> | .. | A good avenue tree. |
| 25. | <i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i> | <i>Bordi</i> | Hard wood; Fruits edible. |
| (b) SHRUBS | | | |
| 1. | <i>Achyranthes aspers</i> | <i>Aghedo</i> | Medicinal value. |
| 2. | <i>Adhatoda vasica</i> | <i>Ardusi</i> | Good for cough. |
| 3. | <i>Balanites roxburghii</i> | <i>Ingor</i> | Fruit used for washing. |
| 4. | <i>Calotropis procera</i> | <i>Nano Akdo</i> | Medicinal properties. |
| 5. | <i>Capparis aphylla</i> | <i>Kerdo</i> | Fruits for pickles. |
| 6. | <i>Cassia auriculata</i> | <i>Aval</i> | Bark for tanning, flowers have medicinal value. |
| 7. | <i>Cassia tora</i> | <i>Pumvadiyo</i> | Medicinal properties. |
| 8. | <i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> | <i>Kado</i> | Medicinal plant for stomach disorder. |
| 9. | <i>Jatropha curcas</i> | <i>Ratanjyot</i> | Medicinal plant. |
| 10. | <i>Tecoma stans</i> | <i>Vasant</i> | Gives showy yellow flowers |
| 11. | <i>Vitex negundo</i> | <i>Nagod</i> | Medicinal value in leaves and flowers. |
| 12. | <i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> | <i>Chanibor</i> | Gives edible fruits. |

STATEMENT**Statement showing the Average Maximum and Minimum**

| Year | | Temperature | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| | | January 1 | February 2 | March 3 | April 4 | May 5 | June 6 |
| 1951 | I | 81.3 F. | 87.4 F. | 94.6 F. | 99.6 F. | 106.1 F. | 101.1 F. |
| | II | 52.5 F. | 55.8 F. | 67.6 F. | 71.2 F. | 79.1 F. | 81.4 F. |
| 1952 | I | 85.6 F. | 89.2 F. | 95.6 F. | 103.0 F. | 106.8 F. | 99.2 F. |
| | II | 57.5 F. | 62.5 F. | 68.4 F. | 77.2 F. | 82.9 F. | 83.2 F. |
| 1953 | I | 81.0 F. | 92.2 F. | 100.4 F. | 103.2 F. | 104.0 F. | 99.8 F. |
| | II | 54.0 F. | 61.9 F. | 49.4 F. | 72.9 F. | 80.6 F. | 82.1 F. |
| 1954 | I | 79.9 F. | 87.1 F. | 95.0 F. | 102.6 F. | 105.7 F. | 99.6 F. |
| | II | 53.1 F. | 62.4 F. | 67.2 F. | 75.5 F. | 80.6 F. | 81.9 F. |
| 1955 | I | 83.3 F. | 89.3 F. | 99.1 F. | 101.8 F. | 106.1 F. | 98.6 F. |
| | II | 56.0 F. | 59.4 F. | 69.6 F. | 69.6 F. | 80.0 F. | 80.9 F. |
| 1956 | I | 82.1 F. | 88.3 F. | 98.0 F. | 103.6 F. | 104.9 F. | 98.3 F. |
| | II | 55.9 F. | 55.8 F. | 68.1 F. | 74.8 F. | 81.1 F. | 82.1 F. |
| 1957 | I | 81.4 F. | 85.2 F. | 93.1 F. | 101.2 F. | 103.6 F. | 89.6 F. |
| | II | 54.0 F. | 52.8 F. | 64.3 F. | 73.4 F. | 78.9 F. | 80.5 F. |
| 1958 | I | 86.3 F. | 88.8 F. | 98.0 F. | 104.3 F. | 107.4 F. | 102.0 F. |
| | II | 58.1 F. | 57.7 F. | 68.6 F. | 78.2 F. | 81.5 F. | 82.6 F. |
| 1959 | I | 83.3 F. | 88.0 F. | 99.2 F. | 103.6 F. | 107.6 F. | 101.2 F. |
| | II | 54.2 F. | 57.2 F. | 66.6 F. | 75.20F. | 81.5 F. | 81.0 F. |
| 1960 | I | 81.5 F. | 93.2 F. | 91.8 F. | 102.4 F. | 105.0 F. | 98.6 F. |
| | II | 53.8 F. | 58.4 F. | 64.8 F. | 72.8 F. | 79.4 F. | 80.8 F. |
| Average of 10 years | I | 82.6 F. | 88.9 F. | 96.5 F. | 102.5 F. | 105.7 F. | 98.8 F. |
| | II | 54.9 F. | 58.7 F. | 67.5 F. | 74.1 F. | 80.6 F. | 81.6 F. |

NOTE : I Average Maximum Temperature during the month.

II Average Minimum Temperature during the month.

Sources : Government of Gujarat, Public Works Department, Capital Project Circle,
Preliminary Report on Gandhinagar, the Capital of Gujarat, Ahmadabad
(1961), pp. 12-13.

I.2

Temperature during each Month from 1951 to 1960

| Temperature | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| July | August | September | October | November | December |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 96.5 F. | 89.0 F. | 96.8 F. | 99.5 F. | 93.5 F. | 85.5 F. |
| 80.2 F. | 77.8 F. | 79.0 F. | 66.5 F. | 66.6 F. | 57.9 F. |
| 89.4 F. | 86.7 F. | 91.9 F. | 97.9 F. | 91.2 F. | 85.7 F. |
| 79.0 F. | 77.2 F. | 76.3 F. | 72.6 F. | 60.6 F. | 57.2 F. |
| 90.7 F. | 85.3 F. | 89.7 F. | 95.4 F. | 90.0 F. | 86.5 F. |
| 79.2 F. | 76.9 F. | 76.3 F. | 68.5 F. | 60.0 F. | 56.1 F. |
| 90.1 F. | 89.0 F. | 86.3 F. | 92.3 F. | 90.6 F. | 84.2 F. |
| 79.2 F. | 78.2 F. | 75.7 F. | 67.4 F. | 60.0 F. | 53.9 F. |
| 95.1 F. | 86.7 F. | 88.8 F. | 91.1 F. | 87.1 F. | 82.8 F. |
| 79.4 F. | 77.0 F. | 76.8 F. | 71.6 F. | 59.1 F. | 56.0 F. |
| .. | 86.9 F. | 89.5 F. | 89.0 F. | 87.2 F. | 83.7 F. |
| .. | 76.1 F. | 76.1 F. | 69.1 F. | 60.7 F. | 55.2 F. |
| 90.8 F. | 90.4 F. | 94.1 F. | 97.9 F. | 92.9 F. | 86.1 F. |
| 78.6 F. | 77.5 F. | 75.9 F. | 71.1 F. | 67.0 F. | 58.3 F. |
| .. | 91.4 F. | 86.8 F. | 91.2 F. | 90.7 F. | 85.8 F. |
| .. | 78.6 F. | 76.1 F. | 71.8 F. | 62.1 F. | 57.9 F. |
| 86.9 F. | 85.4 F. | 86.6 F. | 90.5 F. | 88.7 F. | 85.0 F. |
| 77.4 F. | 77.0 F. | 76.0 F. | 72.5 F. | 63.8 F. | 55.6 F. |
| 92.3 F. | 86.2 F. | 93.7 F. | 97.8 F. | 92.3 F. | 87.6 G. |
| 79.9 F. | 77.6 F. | 76.8 F. | 69.4 F. | 59.2 F. | 57.0 F. |
| 91.5 F. | 89.7 F. | 90.4 F. | 95.3 F. | 90.4 F. | 86.3 F. |
| 79.1 F. | 77.4 F. | 76.5 F. | 71.1 F. | 61.9 F. | 56.5 F. |

STATEMENT I.3

**Maximum and Minimum Temperature in 1970 at District Headquarters
Station**

(IN CENTIGRADE)

| Sl. No. | Month/Year | Mean | Highest | Mean | Lowest |
|------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | | Maximum | | Minimum | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | January | 29.0 | 31.2 | 12.8 | 09.2 |
| 2. | February | 30.6 | 33.6 | 14.8 | 07.6 |
| 3. | March | 35.1 | 40.7 | 19.5 | 14.3 |
| 4. | April | 40.9 | 45.0 | 24.6 | 21.1 |
| 5. | May | 43.0 | 47.5 | 27.3 | 23.8 |
| 6. | June | 36.8 | 40.7 | 26.5 | 22.6 |
| 7. | July | 33.3 | 35.7 | 25.5 | 24.0 |
| 8. | August | 32.2 | 35.4 | 25.1 | 22.7 |
| 9. | September | 32.0 | 34.4 | 24.5 | 22.4 |
| 10. | October | 36.1 | 38.2 | 22.6 | 18.5 |
| 11. | November | 33.0 | 35.6 | 14.6 | 10.2 |
| 12. | December | 30.0 | 32.1 | 10.9 | 08.0 |

Source :

Census 1971, Part X-C.I., *Departmental Statistics and Full count Census Tables*,
Gandhinagar District, p. 12.

STATEMENT I.4

Statement showing Percentage allocation of Wind direction taken as an Average over the Period covering Number of Years (i.e. from 1889-1950)

| Month 1 | | N. 2 | N-E. 3 | E. 4 | S-E. 5 | S. 6 | S-W. 7 | W. 8 | N-W. 9 | Calm 10 |
|---------------|----|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|
| January | I | 9 | 50 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 11 |
| | II | 16 | 19 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 25 | 13 |
| February | I | 10 | 37 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 19 | 9 |
| | II | 11 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 23 | 21 | 7 |
| March | I | 12 | 21 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 35 | 8 |
| | II | 11 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 26 | 32 | 4 |
| April | I | 8 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 51 | 7 |
| | II | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 37 | 28 | 6 |
| May | I | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 43 | 13 | 23 | 6 |
| | II | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 32 | 34 | 18 | 3 |
| June | I | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 54 | 11 | 12 | 6 |
| | II | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 41 | 25 | 4 | 5 |
| July | I | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 59 | 9 | 11 | 6 |
| | II | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 39 | 29 | 7 | 7 |
| August | I | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 59 | 13 | 9 | 4 |
| | II | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 39 | 35 | 6 | 6 |
| September | I | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 11 | 40 | 5 |
| | II | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 25 | 32 | 15 | 9 |
| October | I | 9 | 21 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 14 |
| | II | 10 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 21 |
| November | I | 4 | 56 | 23 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| | II | 15 | 27 | 17 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| December | I | 6 | 57 | 20 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| | II | 13 | 24 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 19 |
| Annual mean I | | 6 | 21 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 7 | 20 | 7 |
| II | | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 22 | 17 | 9 |

NOTE : I Indicates the observations recorded during morning hours.

II Indicates the observations recorded during evening hours.

Source : Government of Gujarat, Public Works Department, Capital Project Circle,
Preliminary Report on Gandhinagar, the Capital of Gujarat, Ahmadabad,
(1961), p. 11.



सत्यमेव जयते

PART II

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

PAUCITY OF DATA

The district comprises a single taluka formed of some villages from the old Ahmadabad district and some from the old Mahesana district. Archaeological exploration has hardly taken place in the area covered by these villages. Nor can reference to any of these places be traced to literary and epigraphic records of the ancient period. The name of the village Adalaj is mentioned in various forms such as Attalaja, Attalayaja, Adalaya, Adaly, Adalija, Adalanja and Adyalaya in the Kaumarika Khanda¹ and the Dharmaranya Khanda of Skanda Purana but these portions of the bulky Purana are of late origin. A set of copper-plates recording a grant of land issued by the Rashtrakuta king Karkaraja Suvarnvarsha in 814 A.D.,² has come to light at Magodi, but the contents of the edict have no bearing on any places in this district. Nor do any of the known archaeological monuments in this district belong to the ancient period.

In the total absence of direct data pertaining to this district, we have to draw some probable account from the known archaeology and history of the adjoining districts of Ahmadabad and Mahesana.

PRE-HISTORY AND PROTO-HISTORY

The occurrence of microliths at Langhanaj and other places in Mahesana district and that of Harappan remains at Lothal in Ahmadabad district imply that similar pre-historic and proto-historic sites will probably come to light in this district as well.

ANCIENT PERIOD (*circa* 100 to *circa* 1300 A.D.)

As regards the early historic period, the area covered by this district was probably included in Anarta mentioned among the territories of King Mahakshatrap Rudradaman I (150 AD.)³ and represented by the region round about Vadnagar in Mahesana district. The discovery of the coins of

1. *Kaumarika Khanda*, LXVI, 108-113; *Dharmaranya Khanda*, XXXVI, 112-113, 118-183, *Vide* U. J. Joshi, *Pnranomam Gujarat* (1946), pp. 1-2.

2. *Journal of the Oriental Institute*, Vol. XX, (1971), pp. 271 ff.

3. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. VIII, pp. 42 ff.

the Western Kshatrapas¹ (*circa* 78-400 A.D.) Sarva Bhāttaraka (*circa* 400-415 A.D.)², Kumaragupta I³ (415-455 A.D.) and Skandagupta⁴ (455-468 A.D.) in the adjoining regions implies that this region, too, was under the successive sway of the Western Kshatrapas, Sarva Bhāttaraka and the two Gupta sovereigns mentioned above, from about 78 A. D. to 468 A. D.⁵ The same is the case with the Maitraka period⁶ (*circa* 470-788 A.D.) and the post-Maitraka period⁷ (788-942 A.D.).

The Sarasvata Mandala formed the home-province of the Chaulukya (Solanki) dynasty (942-*circa* 1300 A.D.). Some of its *pathakas* (sub-divisions) such as Dandahi and Gambhuta, seem to have covered the area represented by the present Gandhinagar district.⁸ Several sites in the adjoining talukas of Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts are associated with great personages or monuments of the Chaulukya kingdom, which marked a golden period in the history of Gujarat. It came to an end in *circa* 1300 A.D.⁹, when the Vaghela branch of the Chaulukya dynasty lost its power to the Khalji Sultanate of Delhi.

THE MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

The mediaeval history of Gandhinagar district is closely interlinked with the history of Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts, as this district has been recently carved out from the territories, which formerly belonged to the northern part of Ahmadabad district and southern part of Mahesana district. Similarly it also bears relation with the history of Mahikantha Agency which comprised the territories of States and Estates merged in Sabar Kantha, Banas Kantha, and Mahesana and Gandhinagar districts.

1. *Gujaratno Rajkiya ane Sanskritik Itihas*, Vol. II, (1972), Chapter VII.
2. *Ibid.*, Chapter VIII.
3. Hundreds of silver coins were discovered at Sarang in Ahmadabad district and some tens at Ahmadabad. *Vide* M. R. MAJMUDAR, *Chronology of Gujarat* (1960), p. 128. A hoard of nine coins buried during the reign of Kumaragupta I was discovered in the Viramgam taluka of Ahmadabad district (*Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*, Vol. XV, pp. 195 f.).
4. *Bombay Gazetteer*, Vol. I, Pt. I, p. 70.
5. Archaeological excavations at Vadnagar (Mahesana district) have also yielded pottery and other remains of the Kshatrap period (*Journal of the M. S. University of Baroda*, Vol. IV, p. 22).
6. Kasahrada (Kasindra in Daskroi taluka of Ahmadabad district) is mentioned in the epigraphic and literary references to the Maitraka kingdom.
7. Kasahrada was a visaya (district) consisting of 750 places in the regime of the Rashtrakutas of Lata. Patan (Mahesana district) was the capital of the Chavada Kingdom during the post-Maitraka period. Places like Sander and Taranga in Mahesana district contain archaeological remains of this period. Panchasar (Mahesana district) flourished before the foundation of Anhilwad Patan.
8. *Vide* H. D. SANKALIA, *Studies in the Historical and Cultural Geography and Ethnography of Gujarat* (1949), pp. 34 ff.
9. For example Asapalli-Karpavati, Dholka, Dhandhuka, Ghnsadi-Viramgam, Mandali (Mandal) Anandpura (Vadnagar), Modhera, Delmal, Sidhpur, Sunak, etc. *Vide* A. K. MAJMUDAR, *Chaulukyas of Gujarat*, (1956).

The history of mediaeval period in Gujarat including the present district of Gandhinagar covers broadly the period from 1299 to 1819 A.D. Gujarat witnessed many political upheavals during this period. It may broadly be divided into the following sub-periods:

- (i) Turkish invasion and the rule of the Delhi Sultanate through their Governors-Nazims (1299 to 1407 A.D.).
- (ii) The Independent Sultanate of Gujarat (1407 to 1573 A.D.).
- (iii) The Mughal rule (1573 to 1758 A.D.).
- (iv) The Maratha rule (1758 to 1818 A.D.).

It must be mentioned here that the Gaekwads of Baroda continued to rule over the northern part of the Gandhinagar district till the merger of Baroda State under the suzerainty of the British rule.

King Karna Vaghela, the last Rajput king of Anahilpur Patan, the then capital of Gujarat, was defeated by the combined armies of Nusrat Khan and Ulugh Khan, deputed by Ala-ud-din Khalji, the Sultan of Delhi in 1299 A.D. This may appropriately be termed as the beginning of the rule of Khalji Sultanate of Delhi in Gujarat. King Karan is said to have left the battlefield. He secretly left Patan and came to Asawal, near Ahmadabad. So the treasure, elephants and womenfolk of king Karan fell in the hands of the Muslim army, alongwith the city of Anhilpur Patan. According to some historians, one of the captured women was Kamala Devi, the queen of Karna, who was sent to Delhi.

According to Firishtah and Badauni, Karna fled to Devgiri (Devgadh) and took resort there with the cooperation of the Yadav king Ramdev of Devgiri. It is stated that Karna was again defeated by the troops of the Sultan, and according to Amir Khusaru, princess Deval Devi, daughter of Karna was captured, brought to Delhi and was married with Khizar Khan. However, this story of Khusaru is not accepted by Babu Jaganlal, who states that the source of this story lies in the Persian poem “Devalrani and Khizar Khan” written by Amir Khusaru to please the Sultan. He argues that this is an imaginary poem and, therefore, it is difficult to accept it as a historical fact. Some writers believe that the king of Devgiri refused to give shelter to king Karna, and, therefore, he had to go to Raja Pratap Rudra Dev of Warangal, who was chivalrous enough to offer shelter to the fugitive king. It was probably at this place that Karna passed his last days.¹ Not much information is available about the last days of king Karna.

1. Government of Gujarat, *Mahesana District Gazetteer*, (1975), p. 97.

Rule of Delhi Sultanate

Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan now proceeded to Asawal from where they marched to Khambhat and plundered the city. They obtained colossal wealth in the loot alongwith a beautiful slave of a rich merchant, whose name was Malik Kafur. This slave was sent to Delhi, where he won the favour of the Sultan, rose to the position of a favourite courtier and also captured the reins of government of Delhi for some time even after the death of Ala-ud-din. From Khambhat these generals went to Saurashtra and destroyed the famous temple of Somnath at Prabhas Patan.¹ Thus the present territory of Gandhinagar district, alongwith the rest of Gujarat, came under the rule of the generals of Ala-ud-din Khalji.

Alp Khan was the first 'Nazim' or Subedar of Gujarat appointed by the Delhi sultanate. It has now been clearly understood that Ulugh Khan, the conqueror of Gujarat and Alp Khan, the first Subedar of Gujarat were different persons.² Alp Khan seems to have taken his charge as Subedar at Patan in about 1306 A.D. He, however, adopted conciliatory policy in Gujarat.

A chronological list of Subedars (Governors) of Gujarat, who followed Alp Khan is given as Annexure I at the end of this chapter. Alp Khan was followed by Saiyad Kamal-ud-din Gurg, but he was slain in a battle. His charge was assumed by Ain-ul-Mulk Multani, who was a skilful general. He defeated the rebels and established peace in the province.

It was during the governorship of Shaikh Muiz-ud-din in the year 1347 A.D., that Sultan Muhammad Tughuluq led an army in person from Delhi to Gujarat. During this expedition, the Sultan marched to Daulatabad and thus on his way from Patan to Asawal he had an opportunity to pass through the present territory of the Gandhinagar district. "At one of the stages in this march he was joined by the historian Zia-ud-din Barni, who had been specially sent from Delhi by the Sultan's nephew prince Firuz and other loyal nobles to congratulate the sovereign on the conquest of the Deccan capital."³ Barni desired to explain the Sultan that the revolts and troubles were due to his excessive severity. However, he had no courage enough to tell him what he desired to say.⁴

The present town of Kadi, which is now included in Mahesana district, was an important centre between Patan and Asawal (Ahmedabad) in those days. It was also the centre of 'Kadi Paragona', which covered Chunval

1. DESAI G. H. "Gujaratno Itihas", Part I, p. 257.

2. Puratattva : Year IV and *Nagari Pracharini Patrika*, Part II, No. 4, p. 429.

3. COMMISSIONER M. S. (PROF.), "A History of Gujarat", Vol. I, p. 35.

4. TBL., and Elliot and Dawson III, pp. 258-60.

and present-day Gandhinagar area. Thus, the events, revolts and battles fought at or in the vicinity of Kadi had close connection with Gandhinagar district and its people. It is noteworthy that a battle was fought at Kadi, between the army of Sultan Muhammad Tughuluq and Taghi (Tughan) a rebel leader of Amirs of Gujarat.

While the Sultan was in Deccan-Daultabad, the Amirs of Gujarat tried to shake off his authority. Malik Tughan (Taghi), who was a cobbler by birth and originally a slave became leader of these rebel Amirs. Taghi, attacked Patan, the capital of Gujarat and imprisoned Shaikh Muiz-ud-din, the then governor of Gujarat. He then proceeded to the rich town of Khambhat and plundered it. He marched to Bharuch but on hearing the news of the Sultan's approach to Bharuch, he fled to Khambhat.

The Sultan made a halt at Bharuch and sent an army in pursuit of Taghi. However, this army was defeated by Taghi, who also now executed Shaikh Muiz-ud-Din, the governor, whom he had imprisoned. The angry Sultan now marched towards Khambhat but Taghi fled to Asawal. The Sultan followed Taghi to Asawal, but the latter fled to Patan. Taghi waited for the favourable rainy season and, therefore, he again turned to Asawal. The rains at this time were in full swing. The Sultan made a quick march and a battle took place at Kadi. Taghi fought desperately, but he was defeated and had to flee and seek shelter in a dense forest.

The above narration shows that the area between Kadi and Asawal was important at this juncture. It was the area of the present Gandhinagar district. Rajputs and Kolis of this area had also played their part in these struggles. Rajputs of Sokhda and Kalavada; and Kolis of Valad and Dabhoda were the main fighting forces of this area. In a way, therefore, Gandhinagar district assumed importance so far as impact of Turkish rule is concerned.

Sultan Muhammad Tughuluq was followed by Sultan Firuz Tughuluq on the throne of Delhi. He had also visited Gujarat. After his fruitless expeditions to Sind, he visited the Gujarat in 1362 A.D. He stayed at Patan, where he dismissed the governor Amir Hussain (Nizam-ul-Mulk) and appointed Zafar Khan of Sonargaon as governor of Gujarat. After his death Shamsud-din Damghani and Malik Mufarrah were appointed governors respectively. The latter entitled as Farhat-ul-Mulk (Rasti Khan), sympathised with Hindus and tried to establish an independent kingdom of Gujarat. The Sultans of Delhi were weak and as such Rasti Khan thought it a proper time for declaring independence, with the help of the Hindu chieftains. However, Muslims of Khambhat complained to the Sultan of Delhi that the governor, instead of encouraging Islam sided with idol-worshipers and that Muslims were harrassed by him. On hearing this, Sultan Nasir-ud-din

Mahmmad appointed Zafar Khan, the son of Wajih-ul-Mulk as governor of Gujarat in 1391 A.D. Zafar Khan on the eve of his departure from Delhi to Patan, received the title of Muzaffar Khan, and was presented a canopy. It was Zafar Khan, who later on founded the independent dynasty of the Sultans of Gujarat. Wajih-ul-Mulk, the father of Zafar Khan was originally a descendent of Tank branch of Rajputs. Therefore independent Sultanate of Gujarat founded by Zafar Khan is also called "Khandan-e- Tank-House of Tank Sultans, by some historians.¹

On his arrival at Nagor, Zafar Khan received many complaints from the residents of Khambat and others against Rasti Khan. Afterwards Zafar Khan arrived in the vicinity of Patan, he informed Rasti Khan to proceed to the court and to hand over the balance of the revenues which had been so long withheld. Rasti Khan, however, decided to oppose Zafar Khan. However, Rasti Khan proceeded towards Patan and a battle was fought between them, near Kamboi (Jitpur), a village situated in the present Chanasma taluka.

Impact of Turkish Rule

During the regime of Turkish Sultans of Delhi, the district was not much affected, as it was far from Delhi and Patan. Moreover, the Turkish rule was confined to towns and cities and did not affect the rural areas much, which were mainly in the hands of Rajputs, Kolis, and turbulent tribes. It may also be pointed out that the entire area of the Gandhinagar district was in the vicinity of town of Asawal, which was populated by Bhils and Kolis. Even now these people are found in the district. The impact of Turkish rule was, therefore, negligible in the district.

Independent Sultanate of Gujarat

Muzaffar Khan I ruled as a Governor of Delhi Sultanate and later on became an independent Sultan of Gujarat. He led expeditions against Idar and Junagadh and collected tribute from these kings. His son Tatar Khan captured Panipat and tried to march towards Delhi, but he was defeated by Ikbal Khan, who was the powerful noble of the Sultan of Delhi in those days.²

When Taimur invaded Delhi in 1398 A.D., Mahmmad Tughuluq II, the then Sultan, left Delhi and took shelter in Gujarat. After return of Taimur, great disorder prevailed in the court of Delhi, where rivalry for the throne made Delhi a hot-bed of intrigues and murders. Vazir Ikbal Khan

1. JALAL-UD-DIN A. MALIK, "Khandan-e-Tank or Sultan-e-Gujarat".

2. DEBAT G. H., *Gujaratno Arvachin Itihas*, pp. 17-18.

captured the throne, but his power remained limited only to Delhi and to some surrounding area. There was none to control the governor of Gujarat, and as such Zafar Khan, now acted as an independent Sultan of Gujarat.

According to '*Mirat-i-Sikandari*', Zafar Khan declared his son Tatar Khan as an independent Sultan of Gujarat in 1403 A.D. Tatar Khan assumed the title of Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah. However, as Tatar Khan died soon thereafter,¹ Zafar Khan declared his grandson Ahmad Khan (son of Tatar Khan) as the heir of the throne and trained him for his future job as an independent Sultan of Gujarat. Later on Zafar Khan was repeatedly requested by his Amirs and officers to ascend the throne for maintaining peace and order in Gujarat, and after a lapse of 3 years and 7 months after the death of his son Tatar Khan, he ascended the throne and assumed the title of Muzaffar Shah (1407 A.D.).

In 1410 A.D., his ambitious grandson Ahmad Khan sent a cup of poison for him, which the grand father accepted, spoke few words of advice and left this world. It is said that after the death of Muzaffar Shah, Ahmad Khan deeply repented for his misconduct, and was never seen smiling after this sorrowful event. Ahmad Khan assumed the title of Nasir-ud-din-Ahmad Shah. He founded the city of Ahmadabad, near Asawal in about 1411 A.D. Now Ahmadabad became the capital of Gujarat, instead of Patan. Ahmadabad touches just the southern boundary of Gandhinagar district.

Ahmad Shah led successful campaigns against Idar, Junagadh, Champaner, Mewad and Nagor. He also brought Mahim and Thana under the control of Gujarat with the help of his naval power. He was well-known for his administration of justice. According to '*Mirat-i-Sikandari*', he did not hesitate at all even to pass the sentence of death on his son-in-law.

In short, assessment of Ahmad Shah would provide an interesting analysis of his rule. Ahmad Shah's rule can be divided into two phases, first period deals with the vindication of authority and second with Malwa and the Bahmanis. During his reign Ahmad Shah waged a war of attrition against the Rajputs. He earned a reputation, viz., one of fanaticism and vandalism, so far as Hindu worship and Hindu religion were concerned. The framework of administrative system created by Ahmad Shah deserves mention. It is to be understood that the purpose of this machinery was to secure for the conqueror the maximum amount of return from the land. The secondary purpose was the maintenance of law and order. Sultan also believed in justice.

1. It is believed that he was poisoned by some courtier of his father.

Sultan Ahmad, wrote Bayley, "was doubtless from the Muhammedan point of view, almost a pattern monarch. He was a wise administrator, the people prospered under the administration he had formed He appears too, to have strictly enforced the law. He was an active and successful soldier, ready for the most part to assist a Muhammedan friend; ready also, with or without pretence to attack an idolatrous neighbour and to extirpate idolworship wherever he could. No doubt, his Hindu neighbours and subjects looked upon the matter in a somewhat different light."

The religiousity of Ahmad Shah, though slightly exaggerated by Bayley, undoubtedly forms his chief characteristic. His relations with Hoshang Shah of Malwa and Ahmad Shah Bahmani testify that Islam did not, after all, form a bond which could not be broken, and that political interest, more often than not, transcended considerations of faith.

It may also be pointed that Ahmad Shah had manifold intentions in choosing the Asawal as a capital. He wanted to quell the revolt of Bhils and desired to make use of strategic location of the site.

In 1441 A. D., he was succeeded by his son Sultan Muhammad Shah, who was in turn succeeded by his son Jalal Khan, who assumed the title of Qutb-ud-din Shah in 1451 A. D. He constructed the famous Kankaria Talav at Ahmadabad. After the death of Qutb-ud-din Shah, his uncle Daud Shah became Sultan in 1459 A.D. However, he was dethroned within seven days and Qutb-ud-din Shah's younger brother Fateh Khan was enthroned as Sultan. He became famous as Mahmud Begada in the history of Gujarat.

The popular name 'Begada' given to Sultan Mahmud is explained by '*Mirat-i-Sikandari*' in a peculiar manner. A bullock having straight, long horns is called 'Begada' in Hindi. The mustaches of the Sultan were very long and he kept them straight on the both sides. Therefore, he was called 'Begada'. However, others believe that the Sultan was called 'Begada' because he had conquered two forts, viz., Junagadh and Champaner.

Mahmud Begada ranks first among all the Sultans of Gujarat as he was a great conqueror and an administrator. He also possessed unique sound health and physical strength.

Mango trees, Rayans, Mahudas and Jambu trees were planted at his instance. The Gandhinagar district seems to have taken great advantage of this scheme. The district in view of nearness to Ahmadabad, greatly benefitted from the Begada's rule. Corn was so cheap during his reign in Gujarat that such cheapness was never found again in the history of Gujarat. He was the founder of the city of Mahemadabad on the banks of

the Vatrak river. After the conquest of Champaner in 1484 A.D., the city was adorned with palaces, gardens, citadel and city walls. He beautified Champaner with grand buildings and gardens.

His son Khalil Khan succeeded him with the title of Muzaffar Shah II in 1511 A.D. During his time Rana Sangram Singh of Chitod had invaded the districts of north Gujarat.¹ However, finally the Rana had to come to terms with the Sultan, by sending his son to Ahmadabad with offers of good will and tribute. Muzaffar Shah was a pious, learned and a religious Sultan, who never touched liquor at all. Muzaffar Shah died in 1525 A.D., and Bahadur Shah ascended the throne after some internal struggle. Humayun invaded Gujarat during his time. Humayun captured Champaner and Bharuch² and he camped at the village Giaspur, two kos to the south of Ahmadabad. Bahadur Shah escaped to Div, via Khambat. Humayun, however, had to return to Agra on account of the rebellion of Sher Khan at Sonpur. Humayun left his brother Hindal Mirza in Ahmadabad and Kasam Beg in Bharuch and Yadgar Nasir Mirza in Patan. Cambay and Baroda were given to Dost Beg and Champaner to Tardi Khan. As there was dissension amongst Askari and Amirs, his brother could not maintain his hold. A battle was fought at Kanij, between him and Bahadur Shah. Askari was defeated. Consequently Bahadur Shah regained Ahmadabad and other territories. Bahadur Shah was treacherously killed by the Portuguese near Div in 1537 A.D.

The decline of the Sultanate of Gujarat set in after the death of Bahadur Shah. During the reign of Mahmad Shah III a noble man named Alam Khan had fled to Pethapur but he could not stay there longer, as Thakor of Pethapur was afraid of the Sultan. However, the reign of Sultan Ahmad Shah III (1554-1560) deserves mention, because a battle was fought in this district at a distance of ten miles in north-east of Ahmadabad between Itimad Khan and Nasir-ul-Mulk, who was the protector of Sultan Ahmad Shah III. Disorder prevailed in Gujarat and Amirs distributed the territories of Gujarat among themselves retaining only Ahmadabad and Daskroi for the expenses of Sultan.³

Itimad Khan, who later on invited Akbar to interfere and bring an end to political confusion in Gujarat, had obtained Kadi and other paraganas as his share. On death of Ahmad Shah III, Itimad Khan enthroned a boy, whom he declared as the royal heir of the throne, in 1560 A.D., and took the reign of the government in his own hands. The new Sultan, enthroned and protected by Itimad Khan is known as Muzaffar Shah III in history.

1. COMMISSIONERAT M. S. (PROF.), *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, p. 278.

2. WATSON, J. W., *Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency*, Vol. I, Part I, Bombay (1896) p. 256.

3. DESAI G. H., "Gujarat-no Arvachin Itihas", p. 68.

New plots, counter-plots and struggles started between Itimad Khan and Sher Khan Fauladi for supremacy. The latter obtained help from several Amirs and Mirza brothers, who had quarrelled with Akbar and left Delhi. Itimad Khan suffered several defeats and consequently he invited Emperor Akbar in 1572 A.D. Akbar took advantage of the disorderly condition of Gujarat and after accepting the invitation he conquered Gujarat in 1573 A.D.

The Cultural, Political and Social Progress under Sultanate of Gujarat

The Gandhinagar district assumed substantial importance during age of Sultans in view of its proximity to the capital city of Ahmadabad. The villages lying on the southern end of the district almost are on the way to Agra and Delhi and as such many marches and counter-marches took place through the district. The age witnessed remarkable transformation in many spheres. A new *Wanta* tenure came into existence and trade and commerce also flourished. Shertha, Randheja and Pethapur were affected by the prosperity of the trade and commerce. Pethapur's sword making industry came into existence.

THE MUGHAL RULE

On the 7th November, 1572 A.D., Emperor Akbar arrived at Patan. After a week's stay at Patan, Akbar started for the capital of Gujarat.¹ The Emperor's next halt was at Jotana. Here several distinguished nobles waited upon the Emperor. Sultan Muzaffar Shah III who was wandering about in a distracted state in the neighbourhood, was brought before the Emperor. Akbar now proceeded towards Ahmadabad and camped near Kadi, in the vicinity of Gandhinagar district. Here the Emperor graciously received Itimad Khan, the greatest of the Gujarat nobles and the Vajir of the Sultan. The Emperor came to the capital and appointed Mirza Aziz Koka, as the first Governor of Gujarat. Akbar proceeded to Khambhat and from there to Surat to drive away the rebel Mirzas. While the Emperor was at Surat, his enemies made a bold attempt to challenge his authority in north Gujarat. Muhammad Hussain Shah Mirza, etc., laid a siege to Patan. The Governor of Ahmadabad, however, collected imperial troops and marched for the relief of Patan. A fierce battle took place near Patan, in which Mirza Aziz Koka became victorious. The rebels were thus scattered on 22nd January, 1573.

After completing the conquest of Gujarat, Akbar returned to Agra via Ahmadabad and Kadi crossing the present territory of the Gandhinagar district. He started his return journey on April 13, 1573 A.D.

1. COMMISSARIAT, M. S., (PROF.), *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. I, pp. 50-78.

Thus Gujarat became a province of the Mughal Empire. Out of 16 *sarkars* of Gujarat, 9 were under the direct control of the Emperor and the rest being feudatory, were left in the hands of the Hindu Rajas or Chiefs. Ahmadabad and Patan were under the direct authority of the Emperor. As a result, the territory of the Gandhinagar district came under the direct control of the Mughal Emperors.

Rebellion of the Ex-Sultan Muzaffar Shah III

Sultan Muzaffar Shah III, who had surrendered himself to the Emperor, and who was kept in charge of various persons, any how escaped to Rajpipla and from there to village Kherdi in Saurashtra, where he took shelter with a Kathi Chief, named Loma Khuman. He awaited for some favourable opportunity to regain his lost throne.

Governor Aziz Koka was succeeded by Mirza Khan, the son of Baheram Khan, who was once the protector of Emperor Akbar. In 1577 A.D., Shah Bud-din Ahmad Khan was appointed as Governor instead of Mirza Khan. In 1583 A.D. Itimad Khan became the fourth Governor of Gujarat. It was during this year that Muzaffar III fled from Delhi and appeared in Gujarat. The old and new Governors both fought with Muzaffar Shah, but they were defeated and compelled to retreat to Patan, leaving their elephants, baggages and families as booty in the hands of the enemy.

Akbar heard the news of the revolt in Gujarat when he was at Allahabad. He sent Mirza Abdurrahim Khan for the reconquest of Gujarat. He speedily arrived at Ahmadabad via Patan crossing the Gandhinagar district. Muzaffar Shah was defeated near Sarkhej. Now Mirza Abdurrahim Khan became the Governor of Gujarat. He defeated Muzaffar twice and as such the title of Khan-i-Khanan was conferred upon him by the Emperor. Muzaffar continued his fruitless efforts to regain his throne till 1592 A.D., when he had finally to commit a suicide at Dhamadaka.

Mughal Governors of Gujarat

Mirza Aziz Koka was the first Mughal Governor of Gujarat. He was again and again appointed for four times on this post. In 1609 A.D., during the reign of Emperor Jehangir, when he was appointed for the fourth time as Governor of Gujarat, he obtained permission from the Emperor to remain at Delhi in the Imperial Court and to send his son to Gujarat as his deputy. Thus the tradition of sending a deputy, came into existence, which proved very harmful to the empire. During the Mughal period it was practise to appoint princes as Governors from 1592 to 1648 A.D. Thus Murad Bax, Shahjahan, Aurangzeb and Dara were appointed as Governors.

During the reign of Emperor Ahmad Shah III, Vakatsingh, the brother of the prince Abhesingh of Jodhpur, was appointed as the 59th Governor of Gujarat, in 1748 A.D. He was the last Governor of Gujarat appointed officially by the Mughal Emperor. As there was great disorder in Gujarat, this last Governor, under some or the other pretext did not come to Gujarat at all. A chronological list of the Mughal Governors is given as Annexure II at the end of this Chapter.

Princes as Governors

As Gujarat was a very important province, princes were appointed as Governors of Gujarat. Akbar had appointed his prince Murad Bax as Governor of Gujarat in 1592 A.D. Emperor Jahangir had also appointed Shahjahan as Governor of Gujarat in 1618 A.D. Aurangzeb was also appointed as Governor of Gujarat in 1644 A.D. He encouraged some religious quarrels and as such Emperor Shahjahan appointed Shaista Khan as Governor instead of Aurangzeb. Prince Dara was posted as Governor of Gujarat in 1648 A.D.

Prince Murad became Governor of Gujarat in 1654 A.D. While Murad was Governor at Ahmadabad he heard about the increasing illness of his father Shahjahan in 1657. So he declared himself as Emperor under the title of Murad-u-asud-din and minted new coins, bearing his name. He obtained five lakhs and fifty thousand rupees from the sons of Shantidas Zaveri and collected troops. He joined hands with Aurangzeb and both of them first defeated Jasvantsinh of Jodhpur and then Prince Dara near Dholpur. After capturing Delhi Aurangzeb imprisoned Murad and he became Emperor of Delhi in 1658 A.D.

Governor Azam Khan

Turbulent Chiefs, Kolis and Kathis infested Gujarat. Travellers and merchants were robbed by Kolis and Kathis. A stern Governor was needed in Gujarat at this moment. Nawab Saif Khan, therefore, the then Governor of Gujarat was recalled and Azam Khan, one of the most powerful grandees at court was sent out as 23rd Governor of Gujarat in 1636 A.D., by Shahjahan.

Kahanji, leader of the Chunval Kolis, had robbed many merchants and committed other acts of brigandage. Azam Khan marching from the north arrived near Patan and heard the complaints of the people. Instead of going to Ahmadabad, he at once proceeded against this turbulent Koli Chiefs and hunted him down until he was compelled to surrender himself. He was also forced to indicate the place where he had concealed his spoils

and to offer security for future good conduct. To control this part of the country, Azam Khan directed forts to be erected in the Koli district, one of which was named Azamabad after himself.

His great love for buildings gave him a nickname of '*Udhai*' white ant, which makes a home for itself wherever it goes. Palace of Azam Khan, built at Ahmadabad, in the south-east corner of the Bhadra, still remains of him. This building is utilised as Government Book Depot at present. He was very stern. An account of dancing girls narrated by the German traveller Mandelslo speaks about this.¹ He was recalled to Delhi in 1642 A.D.

Members of the royal family of Jodhpur also acted as Governors of Gujarat. Jaswantsing, king of Jodhpur was appointed as 32nd Governor of Gujarat by Aurangzeb in 1659 A.D. He was also reposed in 1671 A.D. His son Maharaja Ajitsing was appointed as Governor in 1715 A.D. Maharaja Abhesing of Jodhpur became Governor in 1730 A.D. It was Abhesing, who made a plot for the murder of Pilajirao Gaekwad. Vakhat-sing, brother of Abhesing was appointed as the 59th Governor of Gujarat. He was the last Mughal Governor.

Battles Fought in Gandhinagar District

After the death of Emperor Aurangzeb, struggles between different rival generals were very common. Even Governors did not obey the orders of the Emperor and sometimes they refused to hand over their charge to the successors. As a result, the new and old Governors fought against one another on many occasions. The land of Gandhinagar being the northward entrance of Ahmadabad such battles were fought in the vicinity of village Adalaj of the Gandhinagar district. Kolis of Gandhinagar district in those days were interested in such battles which gave them opportunity to earn by rendering services to the military camps and by capturing the spoils on some of the occasions. They sometimes fought even with the troops of the Governor.

Rising of Pethapur Kolis

During the time of Haidar Kuli Khan, the 50th Governor of Gujarat, the Kolis of Pethapur had become turbulent. They plundered the travellers and disregarded the local officers. Kasam Ali Khan, an officer of the Governor was sent to check these Kolis at Pethapur. He was, however,

1. See "Azamkhan the great Governor of Ahmedabad" an article by M. S. COMMISSIONERAT published in "*Vasant Rajab Smarak Granth*", p. 44.

killed there. When Sujat Khan Naib (Deputy) Governor heard this, he became very angry. He marched to Pethapur to punish the Kolis. He defeated them and burnt the village of Pethapur.¹

Author of 'Mirat-i-Ahmadi' Wounded

Mirza Mahamad Hasan (Ali Mahamad Khan), the author of '*Mirat-i-Ahmadi*', had also entered into struggle with the Kolis of Pethapur. In about 1739 A.D., when the author was returning from Sabar Kantha territory, the Kolis of Pethapur tried to plunder him. A struggle between the two parties started. Few persons were wounded and some were killed. Arrows of the Kolis had slightly wounded the author, but according to him "God saved him."²

Battle of Adalaj

Mubarez-ul-Mulk Sar Buland Khan was appointed Governor of Gujarat in 1723 A.D. He appointed Sujat Khan as his deputy (Naib). The former deputy Hamid Khan was ordered to vacate Bhadra, but he did not vacate under the pretext of the rainy season. Consequently Sujat Khan prepared for a struggle. Finally Hamid Khan was compelled to leave Ahmadabad and proceeded to Dohad. He made friendship with Maratha General Kanthaji and the latter promised to help him against Sujat Khan.

Hamid Khan killed Sujat Khan and recaptured Ahmadabad. He also killed brothers and other relatives of Sujat Khan. As a result of this, Emperor ordered Mubarez-ul-Mulk to proceed to Gujarat immediately and to drive away Hamid Khan and his Maratha colleagues. An advance guard under the commandership of Shaikh Aliyar Khan, was speedily sent to Ahmadabad by Mubarez-ul-Mulk and he himself followed him with a huge army to punish Hamid Khan.

When Shaikh Aliyar Khan arrived at Kalol, he heard that Sardar Mahmad Khan was in charge of Ahmadabad and that Hamid Khan, who had vacated it, was again trying to enter it with the help of the Marathas. As Sardar Mahmd Khan was loyal to Mubarez-ul-Mulk, he did not allow Hamid Khan to enter the city. Aliyar Khan divided his troops in two parts. He entrusted half of his troops to Gulam Ali Beg, Khwaja Mahamad Aman and Rajada Harkaran. With one thousand selected brave horsemen he marched towards Ahmadabad in darkness of the night. He crossed the Sabarmati and entered Ahmadabad through Raikhad gate. His presence and arrival gave much strength and encouragement to the loyal troops, that were opposing Hamid Khan.

1. "Gujaratno Arwachin Itihas, p. 141.

2. "*Mirat-i-Ahmadi*" (Gujarati translation), Vol. II, p. 409.

Now, Gulam Ali Beg and other generals, who were at Kalol marched next morning and arrived at Adalaj, a village in the present Gandhinagar district. They camped at Adalaj and sent news with messengers to Mubarez-ul-Mulk who was near Siddhpur, on his march to Ahmadabad. Hamid Khan being unable to enter Ahmadabad, marched towards Adalaj and attacked the imperial troops. A fierce battle took place at Adalaj. Imperial troops under the joint command of Gulam Ali Beg, Khwaja Mahamad Aman and Raijada Harkaran, fought bravely with Hamid Khan and the Maratha troops that had accompanied him. Khwaja Mahamad Aman and Raijada Harkaran were brave warriors and their swords made way in the ranks of the enemies. Both of them fought very bravely and gave their lives in the battlefield. Gulam Ali Beg was also severely wounded, but he crossed the ranks of the enemies and reached Ahmadabad with very few soldiers. Rest of the soldiers who were scattered and wounded went to Mubarez-ul-Mulk to give the sad news.¹

From Adalaj, Hamid Khan returned to Shahi Bag, but he could not enter the city. He heard that Mubarez-ul-Mulk had now entered the Gandhinagar district with 20 thousand brave horsemen to punish him. Therefore, he fled towards Mahemadabad with Kanthaji.

Battle between Abhesing and Sar Buland Khan

Adalaj, a village of the Gandhinagar district, seems to be the gateway to Ahmadabad in those days. Sar Buland Khan—Mubarez-ul-Mulk was succeeded by new Governor Maharaja Abhesing of Jodhpur in 1730 A.D. Sar Buland Khan, however, was unwilling to hand over this charge to the new governor and to leave Ahmadabad peacefully. As a result of this, Maharaja Abhesing collected an army of 20 thousand soldiers and marched towards Ahmadabad via Palanpur. The Maharaja now knew that Sar Buland Khan had prepared to fight with him, so he obtained the co-operation of the Babis of Radhanpur, who joined him with their troops. This big army arrived at Adalaj and camped there.²

Sar Buland Khan had also left Ahmadabad and had camped between Ahmadabad and Adalaj to fight with Abhesing. Northern suburbs of the city became the battlefield between the two armies. Both generals personally came on the battlefield. One wanted to kill the other any how, but both of them were very clever. Sar Buland Khan believed that the Maharaja will come to the battlefield on an elephant, according to the old Hindu tradition. The Maharaja, however, had taken precaution and had mounted a horse in the dress of an ordinary soldier.

1. "Mirat-i-Ahmadi" (Gujarati translation), pp. 105-106.

2. "Gujaratno Arvachin Itihas", p. 157.

Sar Buland Khan saw a row of elephants advancing from the direction of Adalaj. He recklessly rushed towards these elephants, routed the enemy soldiers and captured the elephants. There was neither Maharaja nor any other soldier in the 'Ambadis'. Many warriors lost their lives on both the sides. Big cannons were used in this battle. A vivid picture of this fierce battle is penned by the author of *Mirat-i-Ahmadi*.¹ The attack of Sar Buland Khan was so fierce that finally Maharaja Abhesing had to come to terms with him. Sar Buland Khan agreed to leave Ahmadabad on payment of one lakh of rupees by Abhesing.

With the decline of the Mughal Empire, Mughal rule in Gujarat also declined and the raids of Marathas in Gujarat became frequent. The weak Mughal governors had no means and courage enough to drive them away. On the contrary some of them tried to obtain help from Marathas against their rivals. Marathas conquered Ahmadabad from Javan Mard Khan Babi in 1753 A.D. Momin Khan of Khambhhat, however, captured Ahmadabad from Marathas in 1756 A.D., and he retained it till 1758 A.D., when Marathas reconquered it from him.

Kolis of the Gandhinagar District on the Stage

The short rule of Momin Khan II, in Ahmadabad has some interesting references about the Kolis of the Gandhinagar district who, for sometime, played an important role in the internal affairs of the city. During the siege of Ahmadabad by Marathas, Momin Khan had to take help of these Kolis, through his deputy Shambhuram Nagar. Shambhuram was in close connection with the Kolis of Dabhoda and Valad villages of the Gandhinagar district. He had employed them for the supply of corn and fodder, etc., secretly for the city during the night time.

Ahmadabad was besieged by the troops of Maratha generals Sadashive Ramchandra and Damaji Gaekwad, who had encamped, outside the fort of Ahmadabad. They tried to cut off the supply-line of the city, by constant patrolling. Momin Khan II, who was inside the city walls, therefore, arranged to receive secret supply of grain and fodder through the Kolis of the Gandhinagar district and thus remained undefeated. People within the city walls were also compelled to purchase grain from these Kolis at a very higher price. Thus the Kolis became rich and their leader Hari Kotwal of Dabhoda dressed and posed himself in such a way as if he was an important officer of the city.

1 "Mirat-i-Ahmadi", (Gujarati translation), pp. 148-158.

Hari Kotwal and his Colleagues

Prof. M. S. Commissariat has given a colourful picture of the proud Hari Kotwal and his colleagues. "The party that properly reaped the greatest advantage from the prolonged investment of Ahmadabad by the Maratha was that of the Kolis who lived at Dabhoda and the adjoining villages. They used to supply large quantities of grain and fodder to those within the walls, often at great personal risk but at the price of thirty times the original rates. The fact that the Kolis chiefs, had established themselves even within the Bhadra citadel provokes the author of the Mirat to bewail the fact that these erstwhile robbers had now made their home in the quarter which imperial princes and great Amirs of Empire used in former times to reside. Dressed in payjamas made of Mashru and Kinkhab with turbans embroidered with bands of gold and silver in a stage undreamt of by their forefathers and with golden ornaments on their necks and arms and precious jewels in their ears, they used to move about the streets of the city scrutinising minutely every house with a view to visiting the same at night for their sinister purpose. A particularly striking figure in Ahmadabad at this time was the Koli chief *Hari Kotwal*, who being employed as shiristedar to Shambhuram, thought himself his master's equal and partner. Seated on his horse, he used to take his stand at the corners of the main streets, putting on the airs of a person of great weight, and with a smiling face assuring the citizens of protection and advising them to carry on their avocations without any fear".¹

Attack on Valad Thana

सत्यमेव जयते

Kolis of village Valad of the present Gandhinagar district also played an important part in those days. In order to protect secret line of supply, Momin Khan had with the advice of Kolis, posted Shah Mahamad Jamadar at Valad, with five hundred Arab Horsemen and with a band of foot soldiers. Village Dabhoda of Hari Kotwal was also not far from this place. Similarly he posted Mahmad Noor at Kali fort, which is situated at a distance of two kos from the city, with necessary troops and two small cannons, etc. These officers were posted for the help of the Kolis, who secretly supplied corn and fodder to the city.

The Kolis who collected corn and fodder, first assembled at Valad and then they secretly carried their goods to Kali fort. During night time they secretly carried these commodities in the city, without being noticed by the Maratha soldiers. Maratha Generals, however, came to know this and sent an army to Valad twice or thrice, but the army had to return after suffering a great loss. However, the vigilant watch of the Marathas, later on caused

1. COMMISSARIAT M. S. (PROF.), *A History of Gujarat*, Vol. II, p. 535.

great loss of daily earning for the Kolis, because now they could not carry on supply work as before. As a result the Kolis and *mukadams* secretly sided with Damaji Gaekwad and advised the latter, now to attack Valad. Shah Mahamad Jamadar saw the treachery of the Kolis, but he was helpless. He left Valad and escaped to Ahmadabad with great difficulty. Thus with the fall of Valad Thana, the important supply line of Momin Khan was cut off.¹

THE MARATHA RULE

Beginning of the Maratha rule in Gujarat, may conveniently be marked with the conquest of Ahmadabad by Sadashiv Ramachandra and Damaji Gaekwad from Momin Khan in 1758 A.D. Gandhinagar district mostly came under the Maratha rule also at about this time.

Majority of the villages in the present Gandhinagar district were formerly under the Gaekwad of Baroda till the merger of Baroda State in 1949. Consequently the history of the Gandhinagar district has close connection with the history of Gaekwads of Baroda. Therefore, a short review of historical developments of Gaekwads of Baroda is necessary at this stage.

Pilaji Rao the founder of the fortunes of the Gaekwad family, captured the hill fortress of Songadh in 1719 A.D., which commanded the southern approaches to Gujarat. During his brief career of eleven years (1721-1732 A.D.) Pilaji Rao advanced further, defeated the rival chieftains and captured the territory, which formed part of the Baroda district. His brilliant and able successor Damaji Rao (1732-68 A.D.) completed the conquest of Gujarat. Damaji Rao had taken part in the historical battle of Panipat (1761 A.D.). In 1763 A.D., Damaji Rao expelled the Babis out of Visnagar and after three years a siege was laid upon Patan which was conquered. Subsequently he made Patan his capital.

Revolt of Kadi Jagirdar

Himmat Bahadur Khande Rao Gaekwad, a brother of Damaji Rao Gaekwad was allowed to retain with him Kadi Paragana as his Jagir. After the death of Damaji Rao, 1768 A.D., this younger branch of Kadi, made disastrous alliances with the petty local chiefs and tried to weaken the ruling branch of the Gaekwad family. Northern area of the present Gandhinagar district was then under the control of this younger branch. Malhar Rao the son of Khande Rao refused to pay tribute to the Baroda ruler and sided

1. "Mirat-i-Ahmadi" (Gujarati translation), pp. 619-20.

with Kanhoji Rao. Moreover he captured Visnagar and Vijapur, and posed himself as an independent ruler. Consequently the area of the Gandhinagar district became the main spot of a new struggle. Anand Rao Gaekwad of Baroda obtained necessary military help from the Britishers to punish arrogant Malhar Rao of Kadi. Troops of Malhar Rao camped at Kalol under the command of his brother Hanumant Rao to defy the army which was led by the Babaji Apaji from south for the conquest of Kadi. Struggle took place between the two armies near Adalaj, in which Hanumant Rao became victorious. Major Alexander Walker from Khambhat came to Ahmadabad with British force and went to Adalaj. Malhar Rao sent a messenger for peace, but the Major knew that it was mere a trick to pass time. Therefore, he marched to Sareta (Shertha) and camped there. Here Malhar Rao personally saw Major Walker, but no way to peace was found out. On 15th March, 1802 the combined forces of the Gaekwad and Major Walker, marched from Shertha and made a halt at Kalol to get the last message from Malhar Rao.¹ Major Walker now advanced towards Kadi and camped at village Budhasan near Kadi. Malhar Rao still pretended to show its eagerness for peace. He, however, had placed cannons on Fateh Gate of Kadi and had made other preparations for fighting. Major Walker attacked the town, but the guns of the enemies disheartened his troops. He lost 146 men and had to wait for more help from Bombay. Sir William Clarke arrived at Budhasan with his troops to help Major Walker on 12th April. A British brigade took advantage of the darkness and marched in the early morning on 30th April without noise. They secretly came near the artillery of Malhar Rao, quickly attacked and captured the guns and used them against the enemies. The military camp of Malhar Rao was burnt and he was compelled to hand over the town of Kadi to the British troops. Malhar Rao was deposed, granted a pension of Rs. 1,25,000 and was carried to Nadiad.² Thus the rule of Malhar Rao came to an end in 1802 A. D.

Successors of Damaji Rao Gaekwad

After the death of Damaji Rao in 1768 A.D., a quarrel for succession arose among his sons. The quarrel was encouraged by the Peshwa due to their political interests. The eldest son Sayaji Rao I (1771-1778 A.D.) ascended the throne of Baroda and his brother Fatesing Rao acted as his 'Mutalik' and ascended the throne in 1778 A.D. He was succeeded by Mannji Rao. After his death Govind Rao Gaekwad ascended the throne in 1793 A. D. He was succeeded by his son Anand Rao in 1800 A. D. On his death his brother Sayaji Rao II became the ruler of Baroda State in 1819 A.D. The power of Baroda weakened during this time due to internal quarrels.

1. "Gujaratno Arwachin Itihas" p. 325.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 329.

THE MODERN PERIOD

The beginning of the reign of Sayaji Rao II may appropriately said to have started the modern period in the history of the Gandhinagar district. Old order of Marathas for collecting tributes from the States changed. During the reign of Sayaji Rao II, the East India Company assumed the direct management of the tribute, it being agreed that the tributes due from them should be collected by the East India Company and paid to the Baroda ruler. Petty States of the Gandhinagar district and Gujarat, thus became free from the clutches of Maratha cavalry. It was a beginning of new era for them.

Maharaja Ganpat Rao Gaekwad succeeded Sayaji Rao II in 1847 A.D. During his reign infanticide and the sale of children were prohibited. Land for the construction of B.B. & C.I. railway was ceded to the British Government free of cost. His successor Maharaja Khande Rao (1856-70 A.D.) was very fond of wrestling. His reign was marked by assistance he rendered to the Britishers at the time of the Revolt of 1857 A.D. Reforms in the sphere of administration of justice and land revenue were his special contribution.

On his death in 1870 A.D., he was succeeded by his brother Malhar Rao. He was not on good terms with his deceased brother. As a result faithful servants of late Khande Rao became targets of Malhar Rao's vengeance. He extracted money from rich persons of the city and thus there was a dissatisfaction among the people. He also quarrelled with the British Resident Col. Phyate posted at Baroda. A commission of inquiry was appointed by the Government of India, which reported about the mal-administration in the State. Malhar Rao was given a last chance to reform the state of affairs at least by the end of December 1874 A.D., with a warning that if this was not done, the inevitable result would be his deposition. Malhar Rao now petitioned the British Government to remove resident Colonel Phayre from Baroda. In the meanwhile Colonel Phayre accused the Gaekwad of trying to poison him and the whole episode became the subject of another controversy and inquiry. The verdict of the committee of inquiry was divided. Lord Salisbury, the Secretary of State, however, was convinced that "incorrigible misrule is of itself a sufficient disqualification for sovereign power". He issued a Proclamation of 19th April, 1875, which declared Malhar Rao deposed from the *gadi* of the Baroda State. Thereafter Malhar Rao was deported to Madras.

Sayaji Rao III

After the deposition of Malhar Rao Gaekwad, the Baroda territory was not annexed with the British territory, but Maharani Jamnabai, the

widow of Maharaja Khande Rao was allowed to adopt a son, who might ascend the *gadi* of Baroda. This opportunity was granted to Maharani Jamnabai because Maharaja Khande Rao was given a right to adopt a son on account of the active help, rendered to the Britishers by him at the time of the Revolt of 1857.

Sir T. Madhav Rao, the famous Administrator was entrusted with the administration of the State. Maharani Jamnabai with the help and consent of Sir T. Madhav Rao adopted Gopal Rao, a son of Kashi Rao Gaekwad of village Kavlana, under Malegaon taluka. Kashi Rao was a descendant of Zingoji Gaekwad, who was brother of Damaji Gaekwad. Thus Gopal Rao, born in a house of a village farmer, became Maharaja of Baroda as Sayaji Rao III on 27th May, 1875.

Sayaji Rao III was carefully given necessary education and training under the close supervision of Sir T. Madhav Rao and Maharani Jamnabai. The period of Sayaji Rao III (1875-1939 A.D.) was the period of peace and prosperity in the history of the Baroda State. Sayaji Rao laboured hard with the help of his able ministers and Baroda State became an ideal progressive State for other native States in India. He introduced a scientific system of survey and settlement of the land. A systematic Revenue Department came into existence. During his time important departments of the State were established, social laws were framed and enacted, and compulsory and free primary education was enforced from 1906. Important programmes of rural construction and industrial development were carried out and a network of railways connected the port of Okha and other important towns in other areas. A Legislative Council was started and judiciary and executive functions were separated. Above all a tradition of just and good Government was firmly established.

The Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Maharaja Sayaji Rao III was celebrated in January 1936, spontaneously by his subject. He set apart a memorial fund of a crore of rupees from his private funds for the benefit of his people on this occasion.

Sayaji Rao was also a patriotic leader of India. Late Dr. K. M. Munshi has stated that the patriotism of the students of Baroda college in those days centred round the ‘Ravaiya’ (Churning staff) of Maharaja Saheb.¹ He came in clash with Lord Curzon. Dr. Munshi further says “We believed Maharaja Saheb as a leader of the Independence Movement.”² Babu Auro Bindo Ghosh was a Private Secretary and Swami Nityanand Saraswati,

1. MUNSHI, K. M. (Dr.), *Sidha Chadhan*, Vol. I, p. 6

2. *Ibid.*, p. 10.

a leader of Arya Samaj was the Advisor of the Maharaja. There was a time in about 1909, when Britishers in India and England believed that the Maharaja encouraged hatred against the Britishers.¹ After the incident of Delhi Darbar in 1911, there was no incident of misunderstanding with the British authorities though he remained a patriotic son of India throughout his life.

After the death of Maharaja Sayaji Rao III, his grand son, Maharaja Pratapsingh succeeded him, on 6th February, 1939. His reign was marked by the permanent reduction in the land-revenue and the constitutional reforms. India became Independent in 1947 and Baroda State was merged in Bombay State on 1-5-1949.

THE MAHIKANTHA AGENCY

The name 'Mahikantha' means the bank of the Mahi, but the Agency did not actually touch the Mahi river at any point. It was situated in the extreme north-east corner of the Bombay Presidency. So far as the Gandhinagar district is concerned Dabhoda and other villages of Bavisi Thana and two Rajput patta:s viz., Vasna and Pethapur were under Mahikantha Agency. The Bavisi Thana and Vasna formerly formed a part of Dehgam taluka of the Gaekwad Territory but were handed over to the Agency on account of the turbulent nature of its inhabitants.

Mahikantha chiefs were tributaries of the Gaekwad of Baroda. The Gaekwad, however, being unable to maintain order among them passed an agreement on 3rd April, 1820, making over the management of the Mahikantha to the British Government, who undertook to collect without charge, the tribute due to the Gaekwad. In 1821, the Governor of Bombay, Mount Stuart Elphinston, visited this territory, and established the new Political Agency with a view to securing tranquility of the district and providing for the peaceful collection of the Gaekwad's tribute.²

It was Sir James Outram who hunted down the leading outlaws so vigorously that they were soon reduced to straits. Tranquility and order were thus restored in the Mahikantha before the end of the year 1836 A.D.

Sadra: Head-Quarters of Mahikantha Agency

When Major Ballantyne visited Mahikantha in 1811-12 A.D., for settlement of tribute of the Gaekwad, he decided to keep the head-quarters of the British Agent, at Sadra which belonged to the Vasna State. There was

1. MUNSHI K. M. (DR.), *Sidha Chadhan*, Vol. I, p. 11.

2. Government of Gujarat, *Mahesana District Gazetteer*, (1975), p. 115.

also an old fort on the eastern bank of the Sabarmati river at Sadra. The Major selected lands adjoining the fort for the British camp.

Thakor Dolatsinhji of Vasna was contacted and he agreed to hand over the require land to the British Government for an annual rent of Rs. 250. Major Ballantyne constructed a bungalow for himself in the fort, which still stands there in depressed and forsaken condition.¹ A small Bazaar, hospital and other Government buildings came into existence. Later on Victoria Jubilee Library and Jubilee clock-tower also adorned the splendour of the camp. Small village of Sadra, thus saw a century of prosperity and peace, and it became a centre of shopping for the adjoining villages of the Gandhinagar district. After removal of the Agency headquarters from Sadra, the village is now in the decaying condition.

In the year 1933 due to grouping and regrouping of political agencies the Sabarkantha Agency with head-quarters at Sadra Civil Station was constituted by the amalgamation of the Mahikantha and Banaskantha Agencies.

As a result, the scheme of the Attachment introduced in 1944, the Sabarkantha Agency was abolished.

ATTACHMENT OF STATES.

The British Government had, for a long time under intensive review the perplexing political and administrative problem, which arose from the existence in Western India and Gujarat of literally hundreds of small units, which, though they were usually referred to as 'Semi Jurisdictional or non-jurisdictional Estates or Talukas' did actually fall within the category of Indian States. In the great majority of these units, the revenue barely sufficed to meet the private needs of the Talukdars and Shareholders and the amenities provided for their subjects were, therefore, circumscribed. There had arisen geographical and administrative problems also. This situation demanded drastic simplification of the existing arrangements which grew up during the Agency system.

Many of these small States were tributaries to Maharaja Gaekwad of Baroda. The Maharaja, therefore, now brought forward proposals for bringing these tributaries into closer relations with his State. These proposal involved *inter alia* the discontinuance of tributary payment and the general assumption, subject to certain safeguards, by the Baroda State of functions and responsibilities previously discharged by the Resident and Political Agent. The Crown-Representatives approved the Scheme of Attachment.

1- Colonel Ballantyne seems to be fond of grand buildings. His big Haveli also stands near the three gates at Ahmadabad.

As a result of this scheme several small States and Thanas were attached to the Baroda State. Vasna State and Dabhoda with other villages of Bavisi Thana (which are now included in the Gandhinagar district) were also transferred under this scheme. Pethapur State had also become a part of Baroda State by its own accord.

HISTORY OF THE STATES

Vasna (Dolarana)

The ruler of Vasna, who was a Rathod Rajput claimed his descent from the house of Rav Jodhaji of Jodhpur, Bhankharji, the brother of Rav Jodhaji obtained Prantij Paragana as a gift from the Emperor of Delhi. He constructed a tank at Prantij, which is known as Bhankharia Talav at present. Bhankharji had 12 sons. His second son Katarmal's son Dudhaji killed Chauhan Rajputs of Chhala and took possession of 27 villages of Chhala Patta in 1592 A.D. After the death of Dudhaji, Devisinh, Kahansinh, Madansinh and Bhathisinh ascended the *gadi* respectively.

Bhathisinh had a quarrel with Delhi and as such he was driven away from Chhala and Prantij Paraganas. Consequently he became an outlaw and began to plunder the merchants of Ahmadabad. Finally the imperial representative at Ahmadabad had to come to terms with him and Bhathiji was given back his Chhala Paragana. Bhathiji had three sons (1) Kalyanmal, (2) Mukandas and (3) Sursinh. Kalyanmal obtained Vasna. Mukandas obtained the *giras* of Aluva and village Bhundiya was given to Sursinh. According to the above-mentioned distribution Kalyanmal kept his *gadi* at Vasna in 1629 A.D. Kalyanmal was succeeded by Shersinh, Dungarsinh, Rajsinh, Chandrasinh, Kahansinh, Dolatsinh (first), Bhagwatsinh, Kishorsinh and Dolatsinh (Second) respectively.

In 1811-12 Thakor Shri Dolatsinh handed over the old fort on the banks of the Sabarmati river at Sadra, with necessary adjoining lands for the British camp.

After the death of Dolatsinh in 1875, A.D., his grand son Takhatsinh succeeded him. As Takhatsinh was minor, his mother Navjiba, took up the management of the State in her own hands. Takhatsinh was educated at Sadra Scott College and afterwards at Rajkot. He obtained full reins of Vasna State in 1896 A. D., after completion his education and administrative training. On his death in 1917 A.D., his son Bapusinh ascended the *gadi* of Vasna.

Thakor Shri Bapusinh was educated at Sadra Scott College and he could speak English with fluency. He himself conducted the judicial work of the State. During his time the annual income of the State amounted to nearly Rs. 27,000. An amount of Rs. 3,043. was payable to the Gaekwad State as tribute of Ghasdana.¹

At the time of the merger of the State Thakor Shri accepted the privy purse agreement. The amount of privy purse was fixed at Rs. 15,100. However, the privy purses of all the rulers were abolished in 1971 A.D. Personal privileges enjoyed by rulers were also terminated with effect from 28th December, 1971.

PETHAPUR STATE

The Thakors of Pethapur were the descendants of the Vaghela branch of Rajputs. Their origin is linked with Jetasinh and Varsinh, who were said to have been granted 500 villages of Sanand and Kalol Paraganas, by the Sultan of Ahmadabad. Anand-dev a descendant of Jetaji ruled at Kalol. In this branch Someshwar, son of Samantsinh got 14 villages of Kolavda. Someshwar's grand son Chandaji had a son named Himaloji, who attacked the village of Sokhada of his maternal uncle Pethuji. Himaloji killed Pethuji and captured Sokhada. The queen of Pethuji became 'Sati' and burnt herself with her husband. She had expressed her final desire before Himaloji that the name of village Sokhada, may henceforth, be kept 'Pethapur' in memory of her late husband Pethuji. Accordingly, Sokhada became Pethapur in 1445 A.D.

Himaloji was succeeded by Jirtaji and Dudaji respectively. Dudaji had attacked Idar, where he lost his life in the battle. His son Vaghaji succeeded him. During the reign of Vaghaji's son Viramji, a battle was fought with Muslims and Pethapur was totally ruined. Jechandji, son of Viramji made truce with Sultan Mahmad Begada and Pethapur became as prosperous as before. Jechandji was succeeded by Shardulji, Raysinhji and Sujaji respectively. Sujaji had three sons, viz., (1) Punjaji (2) Balbhadraji and (3) Ramaji. Punjaji ascended the *gadi* of Pethapur in 1656 A.D., after the death of Sujaji. Balbhadraji was given the *giras* of village Pendada.

Punjaji was succeeded by Ranchhodji, Sajansinh, Hathisinh, Vakhatsinh, Adesinh, Kishorsinh, Fatesinh, Pruthvisinh, and Himatsinh respectively. Himatsinh was succeeded by his son Gambhirsinh. As he was a minor, he was first educated at Sadra and afterwards at Rajkot. He took up the reins of his State in 1892 A.D. He expired in 1895 A.D., when his wife Rajaba was pregnant. She gave birth to a son after the death of her husband. The

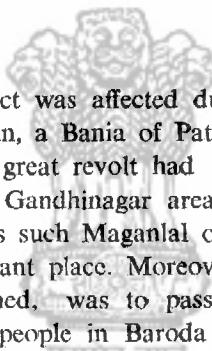
1. "Jamin Jagirno Bhomio", pp. 721-723.

son whose name was Fatesinh was accepted as the heir of the *gadi* by the British Government in 1896 A.D. Fatesinh got education at Sadra Scott College and took up the reins of his State in 1918 A.D.

Pethapur was a fourth class State in the Mahikantha Agency with an annual income of about Rs. 35,000. The State used to pay a tribute of Rs. 8,538-81 '*Ghasdana*' to Baroda State.¹

From the very dawn of the Independence tough problem of Indian States came forward. Independent India demanded integration of big States like Baroda, Gwalior, Mysore and such many other States, some of which were remarkable for advanced administration. However, majority of rulers were prepared to make sacrifices in the wider interests of India, and under the guidance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was then the Minister of States in the Central Government, merger of all India States, big or small was accomplished.

THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT



The Gandhinagar district was affected during the great revolt of 1857 A.D. Shri Maganlal Bhukhan, a Bania of Patan, who recruited soldiers and collected arms, etc. for the great revolt had attacked Lodra, which is in the vicinity of the present Gandhinagar area. Pethapur was famous for manufacture of arms and as such Maganlal or his colleagues might have not ignored such an important place. Moreover, the march to Ahmadabad, which Maganlal had designed, was to pass through the Gandhinagar district. Dis-arming of the people in Baroda State territory was started in 1858 A.D. During those days the village Unava of the Gandhinagar district had refused to surrender arms.²

A patriotic son of the Gandhinagar district, who was at Paris, helped Indian revolutionaries, who were compelled to stay outside India, during the first decade of the twentieth century. His name was Hiralal Motilal Zaveri of Pethapur. He had helped the famous revolutionary Shyamji Krishna Varma etc., and had spent money liberally for the agitation, which they carried on in France and England for freedom of India.

Vadodara Rajya Prajamandal was established in 1916 to get a responsible legislature under the aegis of Ruler of Baroda State. The Mandal received inspiration and guidance from the leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Sumant Mehta and Abbas Taiyabji.

The Prajamandal started its first branch at village Shertha of the present Gandhinagar district, under the supervision of Dr. Sumantbhai

1. "Jamin Jagirno Bhomiyoo", pp. 706-708.

2. Government of Gujarat, *Mahesana District Gazetteer*, (1975), p. 133.

Mehta, who had established an Ashram there. It was in fact a centre to train the people for the freedom movement.

The Satyagrah Movement of 1930, started with "Dandi March" by Mahatma Gandhi roused the people of Gandhinagar alike the rest of India. A 'Vidhyarthi Ashram' at Unava (of the district) rendered help and inspiration to the Satyagrahis and made secret arrangement for publishing and distributing bulletins, which encouraged the Satyagrah Movement. A resident of Randheja Shri Dahyabhai Shukla of the district took active part as a Satyagrahi at Bombay. He worked as a captain of volunteers, who picketed the shops of European merchants in the Fort area of Bombay. He was arrested, imprisoned and was sent to Devalali Prison. Strikes, processions and meetings were common in rural areas of the Gandhinagar district in protest against the tyranical measures that were taken by the British Government against the *Satyagrahis*. Two teachers of Randheja had also joined the *Satyagrah* Movement. Shri C. P. Muni a social worker from Shihor of Saurashtra had camped at Randheja in those days. He awakened the people of the district by visiting different villages, holding meetings and by delivering lectures, etc.

During the days of 'Quit India Movement' in 1942, the district also played its part with great zeal. Dahyabhai Somnath Shukla, this time worked at Ahmadabad where he advised the pleaders to boycott British Courts. He stood on the gate of the District Court and offered bangles to pladeers who entered the court. He was arrested but was released after some time. He then went underground and started the work of awakening the village people in the rural area.

'The Vidharthi Ashram' at Unava, this time also arranged to cyclo-style bulletins and sent them to distant places for distribution. The Ashram under the guidance of its founder Somalal Mehta, also gave secret shelter to sick and underground workers. British C. I. D. officers personally visited the Ashram, but they could not detect the so-called treason in the Ashram.

It will be clear from the foregoing narration that, though major portion of Gandhinagar district was under Baroda State, it never remained aloof from participating in the freedom movement.

Gandhinagar : The New Capital of Gujarat

A separate State of Gujarat came into existence on 1st May, 1960, and as a result the necessity of constructing a new capital for Gujarat arose. Site for the new capital was selected on the banks of the Sabarmati river, where now the decent town of Gandhinagar has come into existence, in memory of 'Rashtra-Pita' Mahatma Gandhi.

ANNEXURE I

**A List of Nazims-Subedars appointed by Sultans of Delhi in Gujarat
and Tank Sultans**

| <i>Name of the Nazim</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Malik Sanjar Alp Khan | 1298-1316 |
| 2. Saiyad Kamal-ud-din Gurg | 1316 |
| 3. En-ul-Mulk Multani | 1317 |
| 4. Malik Dinar Zafar | 1318 |
| 5. Malik Hussam-ud-din-Gujarati | 1319 |
| 6. Malik Vahid-ud-din Kureshi (Sadra-ul-Mulk) | 1320 |
| 7. Khusaro Khan Gujarati | 1320 |
| 8. Malik Taj-ud-din-Turk Jafar | 1320-24 |
| 9. Malik Mohmad Sharaf-ul-Mulk Alp Khan | 1324-39 |
| 10. Malik Najbi Malik Mukibal Naib | 1339-43 |
| 11. Shaikh Moiz-ud-din Malik Muzaffar Naib | 1344 |
| 12. Nizam-ul-Mulk Juna Bahadur Turk | 1345-62 |
| 13. Zafar Khan Farsi | 1362-69 |
| 14. Daria Khan <i>alias</i> Zafar Khan II | 1369-78 |
| 15. Shams-ud-din Damgani | 1379 |
| 16. Farhat-ul-Mulk Rasti Khan | 1380-92 |
| 17. Zafar Khan Bin Vajih-ul-mulk | 1392-1403 |

N. B. : Zafar Khan became independent Sultan of Gujarat under the title of Muzaffar Shah I.

Tank Sultans of Gujarat

| | <i>Name</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 10. | Mahmud Shah II (Nasir Khan) (Vazir : Shams Khan Dandali) (Lapse of 3 years and seven months) | 1403 |
| 2. | Muzaffar Shah I (Zafar Khan) (Vazir : Amid-ud-din Khudavand Khan) | 1407-10 |
| 3. | Ahmad Shah I (Vazirs : Malik Zia-ud-din, Nizam-ul-Mulk, Malik Farid Imad-ul-Mulk Samarkandi) | 1410-43 |
| 4. | Mahammad Shah II (Vazir : Malik Fard Imad-ul-Mulk Samarkhandi) | 1442-51 |
| 5. | Kutb-ud-din Shah (Vazirs : I. Khan Jahan Malik Munir Sultani, II. Malik Shahban Imad-ul-Mulk Sultani) | 1451-58 |
| 6. | Daud Shah (dethroned within seven days) | 1458 |
| 7. | Mahmud Shah-Begada  (Vazirs : 1. Malik Shahban Imad-ul-Mulk, 2. Malik Baha-ud-din Imad-ul-Mulk, 3. Malik Abdul Alim Khudavand Khan Faruki, 4. Malik Jalal-ud-din Mohammad Muhib Khan, 5. Rasid-ul-Mulk Mohammad Bin Mujah-ud-din Layazi), 1458-1511 | |
| 8. | Muzaffar Shah II (Vazirs : 1. Rasid-ul-Mulk Khudavand Khan Layazi. 2. Taj Khan Narpal, 3. Kaisar Khan) | 1511-25 |
| 9. | Sikandar Shah (Vazirs : as shown above) | 1525 |

Tank Sultans of Gujarat—Contd.

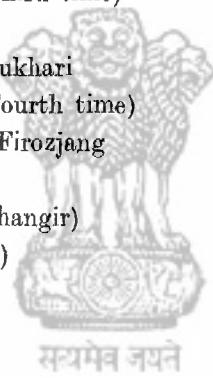
| | <i>Name</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 10. | Mahmud Shah II. (Nasir Khar) (Vazir : Kaisar Khan—son of Patai Raval) | 1525 |
| 11. | Bahadur Shah (Vazirs : 1. Taj Khan Narpali, 2. Kaisar Khan, 3. Mahmad Bin Mahmad Mujaj-ud-din Khudavand Khan Layazi 4. Abdul Aziz Asaf Khan, 5. Khanji Kazi Akhatyar Khan, 6. Malik Abdul Samad Afjal Khan Bambani Abbasi | 1525-36 |
| 12. | Mahmmad Shah III (Vazir : Khanji Kazi Akhatyar Khan, etc.) | 1536 |
| 13. | Mahmud Shah III (Vazir : 1. Khanji Kazi, 2. Malik Imad-ul-Mulk, 3. Abdul Samad Afjal Khan) | 1536-54 |
| 14. | Ahmad Shah II (Vazirs : 1. Sher Khan Bin Abdulkarim Etmad Khan, 2. Aluji Tank Wajih-ul-Mulk, 3. Sardar Khan Biradar Abdursamad, 4. Saiyad Mubark Bhukhari. | 1554-60 |
| 15. | Muzaffar Shah III (Nannu Nathu Alias Habib) (Vazirs : 1. Abdulkarim Itmad Khan, 2. Abdul Fatah Miraz Shams-ud-din Nolva) | 1560-73 & 1583-84 |

NOTE : Names and years etc. in this Annexure are shown according to "Khandn-i-Tank Va Salatin-i-Gujarat" (Jalal-ud-din A Malik).

ANNEXURE II

A Chronological list of Mughal Governors of Gujarat

| <i>Name of Governor (Subedar)</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Mirza Aziz Kokaltash (Koka) | 1573–1575 |
| 2. Mirza Khan (son of Behram Khan) | 1575–77 |
| 3. Shahab-ud-Din Ahmad Khan | 1577–83 |
| 4. Itimad Khan Gujarati | 1583–84 |
| 5. Mirza Abdul Rahim Khan | 1584–87 |
| 6. Ismail Kuli Khan | 1587 |
| 7. Mirza Aziz Kokaltash (Koka) (Second time) | 1588–92 |
| 8. Sultan Murad Bax (Prince) | 1592–1600 |
| 9. Mirza Aziz Kokaltash (Third time) | 1600–06 |
| 10. Kalij Khan | 1606 |
| 11. Saiyad Murtaza Khan Bukhari | 1606–09 |
| 12. Mirza Aziz Kokaltash (Fourth time) | 1609–11 |
| 13. Abdulla Khan Bahadur Firozjang | 1611–16 |
| 14. Mukarab Khan (Hakim) | 1616–18 |
| 15. Shahjahan (Prince of Jahangir) | 1618–22 |
| 16. Sultan Davarbax (Prince) | 1622–24 |
| 17. Sarif Khan | 1624–27 |
| 18. Sher Khan Tuar | 1627–32 |
| 19. Islam Khan | 1632 |
| 20. Bakar Khan | 1632 |
| 21. Sipahdar Khan | 1633–35 |
| 22. Saif Khan | 1635 |
| 23. Azam Khan ‘Udhai’ | 1636–42 |
| 24. Mirza Isarat Khan | 1642–44 |
| 25. Shahjada Aurangzeb | 1644–46 |
| 26. Shaist Khan | 1646–48 |
| 27. Shahjada Muhammad Dara Sikoh | 1648–52 |
| 28. Shaist Khan (Second time) | 1652–54 |
| 29. Shahjada Murad Bax | 1654–57 |
| 30. Kasam Khan | 1657–59 |
| 31. Shah Nawaz Khan Safani | 1659 |
| 32. Maharaja Jaswantsinh of Jodhpur | 1659–62 |
| 33. Mahabat Khan | 1662–68 |
| 34. Bahadur Khan Khanjaban | 1668–71 |



ANNEXURE II—(Contd.)

| <i>Name of Governor (Subedar)</i> | <i>Period</i> |
|---|---------------|
| 35. Maharaja Jaswantsinh (Second time) | 1671-74 |
| 36. Muhammad Amin Khan | 1674-83 |
| 37. Mukhtar Khan | 1683-84 |
| 38. Sujat Khan Kartalab Khan | 1684-1703 |
| 39. Shahjada Muhammad Azamshah | 1703-05 |
| 40. Ibrahim Khan | 1705 |
| 41. Shahjada Muhammad Bidarbakhta | 1705 |
| 42. Ibrahim Khan | 1706-07 |
| 43. Gaji-ud-Din Khan Bahadur Firozjang (Shahmat Khan a Naib acted as Subedar) | 1707-10 |
| 44. Asif-ud-Daula Asad Khan Bahadur | 1712-13 |
| 45. Shahmat Khan | 1713-14 |
| 46. Daud Khan Panni | 1714-15 |
| 47. Maharaja Ajitsinh of Jodhpur | 1715-1716 |
| 48. Samsam-ud-Daula Khan Dauran Nasrat Jang Bahadur | 1716-19 |
| 49. Maharaja Ajitsinh (Second time) | 1719-21 |
| 50. Haidar Kuli Khan (Muiz-ud-daula) | 1721-22 |
| 51. Jumlat-ul-Mulk Nizam-ul-Mulk | 1722 |
| 52. Mubariz-ul-Mulk Sar Buland Khan | 1723-30 |
| 53. Maharaja Abhesinh of Jodhpur | 1730-36 |
| 54. Nazam-ud-Daula Momin Khan Bahadur Firozjang. | 1737-43 |
| 55. Fida-ud-din Khan | 1743 |
| 56. Abdul Aziz Khan (unauthorised) | 1743 |
| 57. Muftkhir Khan | 1743-44 |
| 58. Fakr-ud-Daula Fakr-ud-din Khan Sujatjang Bahadur | 1744-48 |
| 59. Maharaja Vakhatsinh of Jodhpur (He was the last Subedar appointed by the Emperor of Delhi) | 1748 |

NOTE : Names and years etc., in this Annexure, are generally shown according to "Gujarat no Arvachin Itihas, DESAI G. H.

PART III

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

POPULATION

Growth of Population—The Gandhinagar district ranked eighteenth in the State in respect of population. According to the 1971 Census, the population of the State was 26,697,475 persons while the population of the Gandhinagar district was 200,642 or 0.75 per cent of the total population of the State. In 1901 the population of the areas now comprising Gandhinagar district was 62,543. In 1971 it rose to 200,642 (rural 176,587 and urban 24,055) recording a rise of 220.80 per cent during the last seventy years. The decennial growth of the population between 1901 and 1971 for the district is given below:

STATEMENT III.1

Variation in Population during Seventy Years

| Year 1 | Persons 2 | Decade Variation 3 | Percentage Decade Variation 4 | Males | Females |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--|---------|---------|
| | | | | 5 | 6 |
| 1901 .. 62,543 .. | .. | .. | .. | 32,054 | 30,489 |
| 1911 .. 64,030 .. | .. | +1,487 | +2.38 | 33,177 | 30,853 |
| 1921 .. 68,831 .. | .. | +4,801 | +7.50 | 36,079 | 32,752 |
| 1931 .. 76,275 .. | .. | +7,444 | +10.81 | 39,524 | 36,751 |
| 1941 .. 96,227 .. | .. | +19,952 | +26.16 | 50,989 | 45,238 |
| 1951 .. 119,698 .. | .. | +23,471 | +24.39 | 60,122 | 59,576 |
| 1961 .. 137,063 .. | .. | +17,365 | +14.51 | 69,884 | 67,179 |
| 1971 .. 200,642 .. | .. | +63,579 | +46.39 | 104,119 | 96,523 |

Source :

District Census Handbook, 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I, p. 49.

From the above statement, it seems that the slow pace of increase in the population of the district between 1901-1911 and 1911-1921 was due to

some effect of famine and the out-break of epidemics like plague and influenza respectively. In 1971, the population increased by 63,597 i.e., by 46.39 per cent over that in 1961 (137,063), as against 29.39 per cent for the State as a whole. The larger increase in population in recent times may be attributed mainly due to general improvement in medical and public health services made available to the people and due to shifting of the capital of the State to the new township of Gandhinagar.

Density—According to the figures supplied by the Surveyor General of India, the provisional geographical area' of the district is 649.0 sq.km. or 0.33 per cent of the total areas of the State. The density of population per sq.km., for the period 1901-1971 is as under:

| Year | | Density of the State | Density of the District | Rank of the District |
|------|----|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1901 | .. | 46 | 96 | 3 |
| 1931 | .. | 59 | 118 | 3 |
| 1951 | .. | 83 | 184 | 3 |
| 1961 | .. | 105 | 211 | 4 |
| 1971 | .. | 136 | 309 | 3 |

Source :

Based on Census of India 1971, *Gujarat Pocket Book of Population Statistics*, pp. 42-43.

The comparative study of the above table shows that the density of population in the district is progressively increasing. According to 1971 Census, the density comes to 309 persons per sq.km. (urban 424 and rural 298), as against 136 per sq. km. for the State. The urban density is naturally higher than the rural as the pressure of population in rural areas is comparatively less and the average density is worked out on the basis of the entire area within the revenue limits of the village and not of the village site.

This district ranks third with a density of 309 persons per sq.km. As many as 24,055 persons, out of the total population of the district live in Gandhinagar town alone, a majority of them manning the administrative offices and supporting services of the new State capital. Among the districts in the State, the Kheda district ranks first with a density of 341 persons per sq.km. This is a fairly true index of the prosperity of the district. The next in rank, i.e., second is Ahmadabad district with 334 persons per sq.km. This can tend to be an inaccurate index of the prosperity of the district as a whole, though, no doubt various urban centres in the Ahmadabad district are prosperous with concentrations of economic wealth. The same is also

true of Gandhinagar district but its economic prosperity does not compare with that of Ahmadabad district. The prosperity of Gandhinagar District is mainly based on agriculture.

The high place of Gandhinagar on the density map may well be an artificial phenomenon of population in the capital town of Gandhinagar where thousands of civil servants and labourers live, rather than being a true reflection of the quality of habitation in the district as a whole.

Rural-Urban Distribution—Gandhinagar district, a new administrative unit consisting of a single taluka, came into existence on 1-12-1964. This district is formed by transferring some villages of the City, Daskroi and Dehgam talukas of Ahmadabad district and Kalol taluka of Mahesana district. Gandhinagar township, the State headquarter, is the only urban area in the district. There are no town agglomerations in the district. There are no Standard Urban Areas in the district. The population figures for the last seventy years indicate a gradual rise in the rural areas while Gandhinagar, which is treated as a town is the only urban area according to the 1971 Census, though Randheja and Pethapur exhibit some urban characteristics.

STATEMENT III.2

Rural and Urban Population of the District from 1901 to 1971

| Census Year | Rural Population | | | | Urban Population | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------|---------|--------|------------------|--------|---------|
| | Persons | Males | Females | | Persons | Males | Females |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1901 | .. | 62,543 | 32,054 | 30,489 | | | |
| 1911 | .. | 64,030 | 33,177 | 30,853 | | | |
| 1921 | .. | 68,831 | 36,079 | 32,752 | | | |
| 1931 | .. | 76,275 | 39,524 | 36,751 | No Urban Areas | | |
| 1941 | .. | 96,227 | 50,989 | 45,238 | | | |
| 1951 | .. | 119,698 | 60,122 | 59,576 | | | |
| 1961 | .. | 137,063 | 69,884 | 67,179 | | | |
| 1971 | .. | 176,587 | 91,174 | 85,413 | 24,055 | 12,945 | 11,110 |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I., pp. 49–52.

From the above statement, it is clear that during the period from 1901-1971, the rural population rose from 62,543 to 176,587, i.e., 182.34 per cent. There is no question of increase in urban areas because Gandhinagar was treated as town for the first time only in 1971 Census.

Rural Population—In 1971, all the 75 villages in the district were inhabited villages. The total rural population of the district was 176,587 giving an average of 2,354 persons per inhabited village, as against 1,051 in the State. The villages classified by population are given below :

STATEMENT III.3

Percentage distribution of Rural Population by Size Group of Villages, 1971

| Size group I | No. of Villages 2 | Percentage to total No. of villages 3 | Rural Population 4 | Percentage to total rural Population 5 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Less than 200 .. | 2 | 2.67 | 128 | 0.07 |
| 200-499 .. | 4 | 5.33 | 1,218 | 0.69 |
| 500-999 .. | 10 | 13.33 | 7,470 | 4.23 |
| 1,000-1,999 .. | 30 | 40.00 | 42,616 | 24.13 |
| 2,000-4,999 .. | 20 | 26.67 | 64,571 | 36.57 |
| 5,000-9,999 .. | 69 | 12.00 | 60,584 | 34.31 |
| 10,000 and above .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Source :

Based on *District Census Handbook 1971*, Gandhinagar, pp. 50-51.

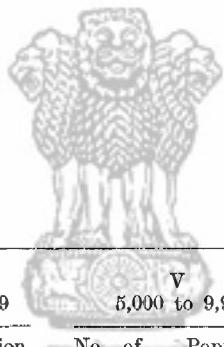
Of the 75 inhabited villages, 6 or 8.00 per cent fall in the size groups of population below 500; 40 or 53.33 per cent fall in the size groups of 500-999 and 1,000-1,999, while 29 or 38.67 per cent are large sized villages with a population of 2,000 and more.

Urban Population— Statement III.4 that follows gives the number of towns classified by population.

STATEMENT III.4

Number of Towns Classified by Size Groups During 1901 to 1971

| Year | I 100,000 and above | | II 50,000 to 99,999 | | III 20,000 to 49,999 | |
|--------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | No. of towns | Population | No. of towns | Population | No. of towns | Population |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1901 to 1961 | .. | .. | No Town | .. | .. | .. |
| 1971 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 24,055 |



| Year | IV 10,000 to 19,999 | | V 5,000 to 9,999 | | VI Below 5,000 | |
|--------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | No. of towns | Population | No. of towns | Population | No. of towns | Population |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1901 to 1961 | .. | .. | No Town | .. | .. | .. |
| 1971 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

*Source :**District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X.C.I, p. 52*

DISTRICT GAZETTEER : GANDHINAGAR

From the Statement, it appears that in 1971, 24,055 persons i.e., 11.99 per cent of the population of the district lived in Gandhinagar town as against 28.08 per cent of the State. From 1901 to 1961, there was not a single place treated as a town. From 1971 Census, there is only one town, i.e., Gandhinagar (Non-Municipal town) in the district enjoying urban status.

Sex-Ratio—According to the 1971 Census, the number of females per 1,000 males was 927 in the district. This was lower than the similar ratio of 934 for the State. The proportion of females is higher in villages (937) than in the towns (858).

| State/District/Taluka | (Females per one thousand males) | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| | 1961 | 1971 |
| State .. | 940 | 934 |
| District .. | 961 | 927 |
| Gandhinagar taluka .. | 961 | 927 |

Source :

Based on *District Census Handbooks* of Mahesana 1961 and 1971, Gandhinagar, 1971.

From the above table, it can be seen that the sex-ratio, during the last decade is decreasing at all the levels. The table suggests that the district which is not industrially developed, sent part of its working population to the industrial and developed areas of the other districts. In Gandhinagar town, there are Government servants whose family members reside in Ahmedabad city and in other near by places.

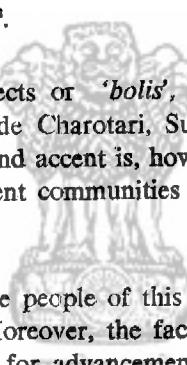
Language—Gujarati is the mother-tongue of 193,753 persons, or 96.57 per cent of the total population of the district. Speakers of other major languages included Hindi (1,323), Gorkhali/Nepali (1,112), Kashmiri (711), Urdu (677), Marathi (660), Marwari (660), Rajasthani (622), and Sindhi (419). The number of speakers of other languages is insignificant.

LANGUAGE AND SCRIPT

Gujarati is one of the major languages of the Indo-Aryan family, and is derived, like other languages of the group, from Sanskrit. Its history

dates back to about more than one thousand years. The great scholar, Acharya Hemchandra (1087-1174 A.D.), who was distinguished member of the court of the Chaulukya kings, Sidharaj and Kumarpal of Patan, has given his 'Prakrit Grammar' numerous quotations from contemporary literature which can easily be regarded as specimen of the oldest Gujarati literature¹.

The progress of the Gujarati language since the time of Acharya Hemchandra to the present day can be divided, into three periods, viz., the first period from the tenth or eleventh century to the fourteenth century, the second period from the fifteenth century to the seventeenth century and the third period from the eighteenth century to the present times. The language of the first period may be called *Apabhramsa* or the 'ancient Gujarati'; while that of the second period which is generally known as 'the old Gujarati' may be called 'mediaeval Gujarati', and that of the third period may obviously be called the 'modern Gujarati'.



Gujarati language has dialects or 'bolis', which are only the spoken variants of speech, which include Charotari, Surati and Kathiawadi, etc. A slight local variation in speech and accent is, however, found in different parts of the same district or in different communities which retain special features of their own.

The language spoken by the people of this district does not differ much from the standard Gujarati. Moreover, the facilities for transport, diversification of occupations and urge for advancement in education, business and science have contributed much to stabilise the different dialects in the standard Gujarati. However, a standard language is not a completely stabilised language. It is exposed to the winds of change in the dialects which contribute to the gradual evolution of the standard language.

RELIGION

The district has a predominantly Hindu population. The 1971 Census shows that as many as 193,930 (96.66 per cent) persons were Hindus. The Muslims numbered 4,613 (2.30 per cent), the Jains 1,535 (0.76 per cent) and the Christians 416 (0.21 per cent). Among others, 67 were Sikhs, 13 were Buddhists and 68 followed other religions and persuasions.

1. SANDESARA, B. J. (Dr.), Article on Origin and Evolution of Language published in the Souvenir of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress, held at Bhavnagar in 1961, p. 191.
2. Presidential address by Dhruva, Shri Keshavlal, in the Second Session of Gujarat Sahitya Parishad, held at Bombay in 1907.

The following is the rural-urban distribution of the population under various religion distributed by sex.

STATEMENT III.5

Distribution of Population by Religion

| Religion 1 | | Rural & Urban 2 | Males | Females |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| | | | 3 | 4 |
| Hindus | .. | .. | 88,663 | 83,001 |
| | | U | 11,989 | 10,277 |
| Muslims | .. | .. | 1,854 | 1,748 |
| | | U | 527 | 484 |
| Jains | .. | .. | 573 | 588 |
| | | U | 207 | 187 |
| Christians | .. | .. | 57 | 54 |
| | | U | 163 | 142 |
| Sikhs | .. | .. | 24 | 13 |
| | | U | 19 | 11 |
| Buddhists | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Religion not stated | .. | .. | 8 | 5 |
| | | U | 32 | 21 |
| Other Religions and Persuasions | .. | .. | 3 | 5 |
| | | U | .. | 3 |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I., p. 64.

Religious Beliefs

The Hinduism—Hindus as such profess monism and polytheism. The learned people think that though there is one God, they appear to be many (*ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti*). The Vedic Aryans were nature worshippers and worshipped Sun (*Mitra, Savitru, Surya, Pushan, Vishnu*), Moon (*Soma*), Fire (*Agni*), Wind (*Marut*), Sky (*Varun*), Thunderstorm (*Indra*), rain and storm (*Rudra*), rivers, (*Saraswati, Sindhu*) and Rain god (*Parjanya*). Afterwards there was addition of the some abstract ideas which were deified into god like *dhee, shree*, etc. During the period of Aranyakas and Upanishads, there was shift towards monism and the idea of one God became

prevalent among the Hindus. During the Epic and Puranic period, there was emergence of gods like Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma and goddesses like Lakshmi, Amba, Kalika, Bahuchara, etc. Due to the influence of non-Aryan culture, worship of goddesses and gods like Shitla, Boliya Kaka, Vastospati etc., became prevalent. The influence of the Shakta Sampradaya introduced *linga-puja* and worship of Matrukas in Gujarat. Due to influence of Buddhism, idol-worship became the order of the day among Hindus and temples of various gods and goddesses were constructed.

After eighth century, due to the influence of Kumaril Bhatt and Shrimad Shankaracharya, there was revival of Hinduism and Buddhism and Shakta Sampradaya lost its hold from Gujarat. During the 15th and 16th centuries, there was revival of *Bhakti Marga* due to the preachings of Acharyas like Ramanuj, Vallabhacharya, etc., and we see similar ideas being echoed by the early poets of Gujarat, like Narsinh, Mira, etc., who were the representative saint poets of the devotional age.

Influence of Religious Sects on Hinduism

Though caste restrictions have tended to diminish with the spread of modern education and diversification of occupations, the religious life of an orthodox Hindu still continues to be governed by customs and tradition and the particular sect to which he/she belongs. The Brahmins are generally the followers of Lord Shiva and it is customary that some members of the family must perform the religious rituals every day. The Brahmins are expected to perform *sandhya* (twilight prayer) at least once a day in the morning, and repeat Gayatri or the Sun hymn. Generally, the Vanias are Vaishnavas, staunch adherents of Shri Vallabhacharya, who propounded the Bhakti cult, i.e., the worship of Lord Krishna. Instead of the sacred thread, both men and women wear round their neck a *kanthi* of small basil or *tulsi* (*ocimum basilicum*) beads. The Rajputs, though partial to the worship of Shiva, are equally devoted to Shakti, the mother goddess. The agricultural and artisan castes worship some deity or the other of the Hindu pantheon, Rama, Krishna, Hanuman, Mataji or mother goddesses in their various forms. Belief in sorcery, witches, an evil eye and bad omens still prevails particularly among the tribals and other backward classes.

The Shaivism—The followers of Shaivism worship the deity under the name of Rudra, Shiva, Sadashiva, Shankara, Shambhu, Mahadeva, Neelkantha, etc., in their own houses, as also in the temples, which are to be found in almost every village or town in this district. It is believed that Lord Shiva is a powerful, wrathful and impetuous god, but generous and bountiful and spares nothing when he is propitiated. The devotees use a transversed streak of three lines called *tripunda* on their forehead as a religious mark and garland of *rudraksha*, i.e., of rosary beads.

Towards the close of the eighth century, the Shiva worship was extended and popularised by Shri Shankaracharya. He established in India four *Mathas*¹ or monasteries, where he appointed his four principal disciples as *acharyas* who were in their turn succeeded by their disciples to this day. The first head of the monastery at Dwarka was Mandanmishra, the famous *pundit*, whom Shankaracharya had defeated in philosophical polemics and who had taken *sanyasta* under the name of Sureshwaracharya. The present Shankaracharya, Shri Abhinav Sadchidanand Tirth, is the 77th in the line. Among Shaivism, there were number of sects such as Pashupat, Vir Shaiva and Kapalik or Kalmaukhik, among which the Pashupat Sampradaya was prevalent in various parts of Gujarat during Chaulukya period.

The Vaishnavism—Vishnu is the god of preservation and universal prosperity, whose various incarnations or *avatars* literally mean his descent on the earth for the protection of gods, and men for reinstating the *dharma*. Of these, Rama the seventh incarnation and Krishna the eighth incarnation are the most revered.

The cult of Lord Krishna was spread by many Acharyas in the south, out of whom Shri Ramanuja, Shri Madhavacharya, Shri Vallabhacharya, etc., were the most prominent. Shri Ramanuja differed from Shrimad Shankaracharya in his concept of monism. He propounded the theory of Vishistadvaita. According to him, there are three eternal principles, the individual or animal soul (*Chit*), the insensate world (*Achit*) and the Supreme soul (*Ishwara*). The main idea which distinguishes the doctrine of Ramanuja from the rest of the Vedanta schools is that the individual soul and the inanimate world, essentially different in themselves, form at the same time the body and mode or attribute of the supreme spirit: and, as such, they are incapable of an existence independent of the supreme spirit. This is what gives the doctrine its name of 'Vishistadvaita' (Non-duality qualified by duality or the non-duality of the supreme spirit which is qualified by the individual soul and the inanimate world).

The form of Vaishnavism most prevalent in this district is the *pushti marg* or the creed of spiritual nourishment founded by Vishnu Swami and propagated by Shri Vallabhacharya. It is termed 'Suddhadvaita' as distinguished from the 'Kevaladvaita' of Shankaracharya and Vishishtadvaita of Ramanujacharya. According to Vallabhacharya, it is 'Brahman', pure and simple and without any connection with 'Maya', that can create the Universe. The doctrine of Vallabhacharya is called Suddhadvaita, i.e., the unity of *Brahman* which is pure or free from Maya. Thus the *jiva* and the inanimate world are essentially the same as *Brahman*, without involving any idea of

1. These four *Mathas* are (i) Badrikedar (U. P.) in the extreme north, (ii) Rameshwar (Tamilnadu) in the extreme south, (iii) Jagannathpuri (Orissa) in the east and (iv) Dwarka (Gujarat) in the West.

Maya. It teaches that god, though eternal, is endowed with celestial form and power and all visible phenomena emanate from him. Shri Vallabhacharya introduced love for god, devotion and an element of pleasure in divine worship, rejecting the austerity and hardship of other sects. The places which were visited by Vallabhacharya are known as Maha Prabhujini Bethak and the foot-prints of the Acharya and his successors are held in high esteem by his followers. Mercantile communities of Gujarat such as Bhatias, Vanias, Lohanas, etc., are his disciples. His son Vitthalnathji had also visited Gujarat. Many religious books of this Sampradaya were written about four or five hundred years ago.

As a reformist among the great teachers of Vaishnavism, Swami Ramanand made a valuable contribution for integration of castes. Shri Ramanand began a radical reform and made no distinction between Brahmins and members of the untouchables.

The Swaminarayan Sampradaya—The Swaminarayan Sampradaya was founded in the early 19th century by Shri Sahjanand Swami (1781-1830). It is purely a devotional movement and has a large following all over Gujarat. Gadhada (Swamina) in the Bhavnagar district is one of the important centres, where Shri Swaminarayan spent a major portion of his life and propagated the tenets of his religion.

Nilkantha Brahmachari popularly known as Swaminarayan preached the worship of and faith in one god, who was Krishna, who alone could free the soul from the fetters of the flesh. The real value of his work as a spiritual reformer lies in his throwing open the portals of his discipleship to all strata of society irrespective of their caste and creed.

Shri Swaminarayan recognised the stages of spiritual development by creating different orders, viz., (i) for the ecclesiastics and (ii) for laity. He also created a class of nuns who are styled *sankhyayoginis* or female devotees.

Jainism—Jainism preaches tapa or penance, control of the mind and passions, *ahimsa* and renunciation of all worldly pleasures and attachment to attain *moksha* or liberation. The Jains worship the images of all the 24 *tirthankaras* in their temples, wherein are also found images of the Hindu gods and goddesses in some side niches, under different names.

Jainism has two major divisions, viz., the Shwetambar and the Digambar. The Shwetambar monks put on white clothes and the Digambar monks move in nude condition, having direction as their clothes. The major point of difference between the two divisions is whether the injunction to renounce all worldly possessions for achieving salvation should be carried to the extreme by dispensing even with clothes and practising nudity.

Sthanakvasi Sect—Among the sub-branches of Jainism, Sthanakvasi Jains are prominent. This sect is also known as that of the Dhundias from **dhundvu**, to search. It was propagated by Acharya Dhundi Raj. The Sthanakvasis accept the authority of thirty-two and not forty-five Sutras. They do not visit Jain shrines and temples. They visit Upashraya and rely on religious books of preaching.

Islam—The chief articles of Islamic faith are belief in the unity of God, in His Angels, in His Books, in His Prophets, in good and evil as coming from Him, and in the day of Resurrection.

The Muslims in the district constitute a little over (2.30) per cent of the total population according to the Census of 1971. They are mostly found in urban areas. They are divided into two sects, viz., the Sunnis and the Shiahhs. The former are more common than the latter.

CASTES

The Present Position of Castes

The main communities in the district are Hindus and Muslims. Among the Hindus, mention must be made of Brahman, Vania, Rajput, Thakarda, Patidar, Anjana Patel, Kachhia, Khatri, Bhavsar, Ghanchi, Darji, Kumbhar, Luhar, Salat, Mochi, Ravalia, Bhavaiya or Targala, Gadhwvi, Nai, Rabari and Vaghari. Among the Muslims Mir, Malek, Pinjara, Ghanchi, Memans and Gandhraps or Gandharvas who are Muslims converted from Hindus.

The Brahmans of this district belong to Panch Dravid. The Brahmans in general are said to be of 84 castes and a feast in which Brahmans of all castes are invited, is, therefore, called a *chorasi*. In this district, Audich, Modh, Vyas, Mewada, Nagar, Shrigod, Tapodhan, Vatadara, etc., sub-castes are mainly found. They are generally followers of Shaivism but there are some among them who follow Vaishnavism and a few belong to the Swaminarayan sect. Brahmans are generally priests, but some of them are endowed with land, while some of them are traders. Besides this, the main occupation of Brahmans is service either in Government or in non-Government organisations.

The Audich Brahmans are so called because they migrated to Gujarat from the North (*udicha*) particularly from Uttar Pradesh (Kanoj) and Malva. They are mainly divided into two sub-castes, viz., the Audich Sahasra and the Audich Tolakia. The Sahasras are further divided into Sihora and Sidhpuria. In this district, Audichas of Sidhpur division are found in Rupal, Randheja, Dolarana Vasana, Chhala, Kolavada, etc. They are mostly agriculturists and are engaged in priestly duties.

The Modh Brahmins are so called as they have migrated from Modhera, once an important place in the Chanasma taluka of the Mahesana district. They are divided into six sub-castes viz., Agiasana, Chaturvedi, Dhinoja, Jethimal, Trivedi and Kanoja (from Kanoda). They are mostly found in Randheja, Shertha, Valad, Chhala, Sardhav, Unava, Dolarana Vasana, Por, Unvarsad, Vasan and Piplaj villages of this district. They are generally agriculturists, and are engaged in priestly duties.

The Vyas Brahmins are found in Randheja, Valad and other villages of this district. They are the descendants of 108 Brahmins of several subdivisions, who conducted a penance ceremony performed by a Brahman jester in the employ of one of the Musalman kings of Ahmadabad. The families who took part in this ceremony were excommunicated and formed a separate caste. Widow marriage is prevalent among them. Shortly after the formation, some members of it began to take part in Bhavai as strolling players and so they were considered as degraded by upper classes. They form a separate caste with the Targalas and Bhavaiyas. They are mainly agriculturists and are engaged in miscellaneous works.

The Mewada Brahmins originally came from Mewar in Rajasthan. They are divided into three classes, viz., Bhat, Chorasi and Trivedi. They are mainly engaged in cultivation and service, some of them work as cooks also. They are found in Randheja, Tintoda, Lekawada, Bhundiya, Chhala and Sonarda villages of this district. During the marriage ceremony of Mewada Brahman, there is one interesting custom. When the bridegroom, party arrives at bride's place a wooden cot is set on which the bridegroom has to lie flatly and thereafter the bride comes out and throws pieces of *gur* on him. The bridegroom then gets up. After this process, other ceremonies such as *ponkhavu*, etc., begin. In other social customs they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. They are followers of Shaivism and worship their family god Ek-lingji.

The Nagars claim to be the highest among the Brahmins of Gujarat. The Nagar is a Sanskrit word meaning belonging to or residing in a *nagar* (નગર) or city. There are several traditions among the Nagar Brahmins about their origin. According to one tradition they were created to officiate at Shiva's marriage. According to another, they were created to officiate at Shiva's sacrifice. A third is that they are the descendants of Nag, who, pursued by some enraged snake-charmers, assumed the form of a Brahman, fled to Vadnagar, married a Brahman girl and had several children by her, who came to be known as Nagars. Vadnagar was no doubt the place of their original settlement, and has given to them the name Vadnagara Nagars. There are six main sub-divisions of Nagars, viz., Vadnagara, Chitroda, Krashnora, Prashnora, Sathodra and Visnagara. Among Visnagara and Sathodra, those who have married outside their own community formed a

separate caste called Barad. Other sub-divisions are named after the places of their settlements subsequent to be split into Vadnagaras and Visnagaras. The Chitrodas take their name from the town Chitrod. The Sathodras take their name from Sathod, a village in Dabhoi taluka. The Prashnoras take their name from Pushkar near Ajmer. They have migrated originally from Ahichhatra in Mewar. The Krashnoras take their name from the Krishnanager or Krishnasagar. Of the six sub-divisions, Vadnagara, Visnagara and Sathodra are again sub-divided in *grahastha* (non-priestly) and *bhiksuka* (priests). Marriage between *grahastha* and *bhikshuka* Nagars was not favoured in the past; but now there are no such restrictions. They are found in Gandhinagar township and Unava, Sardhav, Pethapur, etc., villages of this district. Most of the Nagars are Visnagara and Vadnagara. They are cultivators and servicemen. In matter of religion, they follow Shaivism.

The Shrigod Brahmans are those Gauda Brahmans, who migrated from Shrinagar in Kashmir and thus became known as Shrigod. They are divided into Malvi and Derola. Once when the country suffered from a severe famine those who migrated from Malwa became known as Malaviya or Malvi. Malvi Shrigods came to Gujarat from Malva during the reign of Chalukya kings. The Malvi Shrigods are sub-divided into Juna and Nava (*i.e.*, those who came first and those who came afterwards). Nava Malvi Shrigod are further sub-divided into Kharola and Kharśodia from the name of the villages where they settled. They are found in Piplaj, Vasan, Kolavada and Sardhav villages of this district.

Tapodhan Brahmans are generally *pujaris* of Mahadev. They are found in Chhala, Kolavada and other villages of this district.

Vatadara Brahmans are chiefly found in the Valad village of this district.

Among traders, the Vania and the Luhana are the main castes found in this district. Among the Vania, those who are followers of the Vallabhacharya or Pushti Sampradaya are called Meshri while those who follow Jainism are called Shravak.

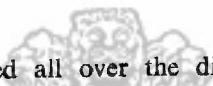
Meshri is a general term applied to Vanias of Vaishnava persuasion. The Vaishnava Vanias are divided into Dasa and Visa. The Dasa Vaishnava Vanias are found in Rupal, Vasan, Kolavada, etc., villages of this district while the Visa Vaishnava Vanias are found in Kolavada, and other villages of this district.

The Porwad Vanias are said to take their name from Porwad, a suburb of Shrimal or Bhinmal, the old capital of South Marwar. They are divided into Visa and Dasa. The Dasa Porwad Vanias are found in

Unvarsad and other villages of this district. Among Visa Porwad there are both Jains and Vaishnavas. They are traders. Their family deity is the Shree or Mahalakshmi of Shrimal.

Now, among the Shravak Vania, the Shrimali take their name from Shrimal or Bhinmal in Marwar, west of Mt. Abu. They were formerly Solanki Rajputs and were originally Gurjars. They are divided into Visa and Dasa. In matter of social customs like birth, marriage and death, they generally do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. Their family goddess is Vagheshvari Mata of Shrimal. There are some families of Digambar Jains, who have migrated from Mevad to Pethapur.

Among the cultivators, there are three main classes, viz., Rajput, Thakarda and Patidar.



The Rajputs are scattered all over the district but mainly found in Dolarana Vasana, Sardhav, Rupal, Vasan, Unava, Kolavada and Pethapur villages of this district. They are cultivators and also serve in different departments of Government or semi-Government and other organisations. They are divided into a number of clans such as Ada, Bhatia, Solanki, Dabhi, Chavda, Chohan, etc. Marriage within a clan is prohibited, as all members of the clan are believed to be children of one common ancestor. Their marriages are expensive, and as such the custom of sending a sword representing bridegroom is in vogue among them. In other matters of social customs like birth and death, they do not differ much from the other Hindus. They follow Shaivism and Vaishnavism.

The Thakardas are mainly found in the Dabhoda, Sardhav, Dolarana Vasana, Unava, Kolavada, Unvarsad and Pethapur villages of this district. They claim Rajput descent. They bear Rajput names and surnames and are agriculturists.

There are two main divisions among Patidars, viz., Kadwa and the Lewa. The Kadwa Patidars are found in Randheja, Sardhav, Rupal, Kolavada, Pethapur, Sonipur, Dabhoda, Chandkheda, Khoraj, Koba, Shertha, Chiloda, Unvarsad, Adalaj, etc., villages of this district. The Lewa Patidars are found in Unava, Ambapur, Por, Lavarpur, Kolavada, Unvarsad, Vavol, Valad, etc., villages of this district. They both are cultivators. Some of them are also servicemen. In matter of social customs, they do not differ much from the rest of Hindus. Generally the Kadwas are followers of Shaivism. Some of them are Ramanandi also. The Lewas are followers of Vaishnavism and swaminarayan sects.

The Anjana Patels are chiefly found in Chhala and other villages of this district. Like Rajputs, some of their names end in 'sing' as Dansing, Harising, etc. They are mainly cultivators. Some of them are engaged in Government service. They follow mainly Shaivism. In matter of social customs, they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus. Widow marriage and divorce are prevalent among them.

Among the Kachhia, Ajavalia Kachhia is the caste of green-grocers from Katchha, a vegetable garden. Besides growing garden produce, **Kachhias are servicemen**. The social customs followed by Kachhias do not differ much from rest of the Hindus.

The Khatri is the caste of weavers and dyers. They are found in Pethapur and other villages of this district. According to their claim, they belong to the Brahma-Kshatri stock and came to Gujarat from Sindh in the 16th and 17th centuries, tempted by the strong European demand for their cloth. The great veneration in which they hold the temple of Hingalaj Mata on the Western border of Sindh, suggests some early connection with Sindh. In matter of social customs, they do not differ much from the Hindus in general.

Bhavsars are calico printers. They are chiefly found in Pethapur and Dolarana Vasana villages of this district. According to their story, they were originally Kshatriyas, who, during Parshuram's persecution, hid themselves in a temple of Goddess and for this act of *bhav*, or confidence in the goddess, they came to be known as Bhavsar. The original home of their ancestors was Vraj-Mathura in North India. Many Bhavsars have given up calico printing and have become confectioners, sellers of cloth and brassware. They also serve in Government and private organisations. By religion, some are Jains and some follow Vaishnavism. Their family goddesses are Ambaji and Hingalaj. In matter of social customs, they are with the rest of the Hindus.

Ghanchis, originally oilmen, are now traders and are found chiefly in Pethapur, Rupal and other villages of this district.

Among artisans there are Suthar, Darji, Kumbhar, Luhar, Salat and Mochi. The Suthars are carpenters, from the Sanskrit word *sutradhar* (*sutra*, i.e., the thread with which the course of the saw is marked). They are found in Rupal, Vasan, Unava, Kolavada, etc., villages of this district.

The Darjis are also called Merai or *Sai* from *sui*, a needle. They are scattered all over the district. They seem to be of Rajput origin of which a trace remains in surnames Chavda, Chauhan, Gohel, Dabhi, Makwana,

Parmar, Rathod, Solanki and Sonara. Their main occupation is tailoring but because of change in economic life due to impact of development programme, they have also shifted to varied walks of life utilizing new opening and opportunities. In matter of religion, they follow Shaivism, **Pranami Panth, Ramanandi and Swaminarayan or Vallabhachari sects.** They worship goddesses such as Ambaji, Chamunda, and Kali; and in social customs they do not differ much from rest of the Hindus.

The Kumbhar is the caste of potters. The name is derived from *Kumbhakar* (*kumbha*, a water pot and *kar*, maker). They are generally found in Unava, Sonipur, Rupal, Vasan, Kolavada, Unvarsad, etc., villages of this district. In some places, they are called Ojhas and Prajapatis (creators). Some of them claim Rajput descent. Besides working as potters, many of them are employed now in villages as domestic servants and, in towns, they have become carpenters or brick-layers. With the opening of economic opportunities, they have shifted to new occupations and services. In matters of religion and social customs, they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus.

The Luhars or Lavars are blacksmiths from Sanskrit *lohkar*. Some of their surnames suggest Rajput descent. One of their sub-castes, Panchal Luhars claim to be Brahmans, who were degraded owing to their taking to the blacksmiths' profession. Besides their traditional occupation, they have also shifted to other occupations and services. Divorce and remarriage are allowed. Luhars belong to many religious sects, such as Kabirpanthi, Swaminarayan and Ramanandi. They worship goddess Ambaji, Bahucharaji and Kalika. They follow generally the social customs of the Hindus.

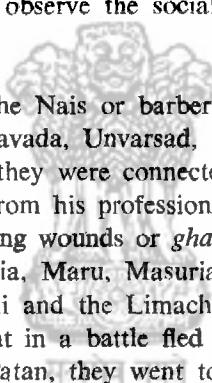
The Mochis, leather workers, are generally found in Unava and other villages of this district. According to their own account, they were Rajputs living near Champaner of the Panchmahals district. Traces of their Rajput descent appear in their surnames: Chohan, Chudasama, Dabhi, Gohel, Jhala, Makwana, Maru, Parmar, Rathod, Solanki and Vaghela. With the passage of time and in view of economic compulsions, they are now employed in various occupations such as bricklayers, carpenters, masons and other artisans. They follow the Swaminarayan religion and worship goddess Amba. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus.

The Ravalias are also called Jogis. They claim to be of Rajput origin and are sub-divided into Sakhia (clansmen) and Vahalia (warriors). Sakhias are divided into Joshi Ravals, Maru Ravals and Patai Ravals. They eke out their living from cultivation of lands. They also beg and it is considered holy to give cooked food to a Raval especially where a death has occurred in

the family. They are mainly found in Unava, Pethapur, Sardhav, Unvarsad, Rupal, Sonipur, Vasan, Kolavada and Dolarana Vasana villages of this district. In matter of religion, they are Hindus and worship goddess Ambaji. In matter of social customs, they do not differ much from the rest of the Hindus.

Of bards and actors, there are Barots, Bhavaiyas or Targalas and Gadhvis. The Barots are bards and heralds. They are found in Rupal, Unava, Pethapur, Koba, etc., villages of this district. The Bhavaiyas are mainly found in Randheja, Kolavada, etc., villages of this district.

The Gadhvis are mainly genealogists. But they have now left their traditional occupation and are engaged in various occupations, such as cultivators, traders, shop-keepers, etc. They are found in Kolavada, Sardhav, Pethapur and Sargasan villages of this district. They worship goddess Amba, Bhavani, Parvati, etc., and observe the social customs of the Hindus. They follow Shaivism.



Among the servants, the Nais or barbers are found in Gandhinagar, Unava, Rupal, Vasan, Kolavada, Unvarsad, and other villages of this district. In the earlier period, they were connected with surgical activities. A Nai is also called Valand from his profession of hair or *val*; a *gainjo* from his old occupation of dressing wounds or *gha*. There are many divisions of Nais, *Viz.*, Limachia, Bhatia, Maru, Masuria, Pardeshi and Dakshani. Of these divisions, the Pardeshi and the Limachias claim descent from a band of Rajputs, who after defeat in a battle fled for protection to their goddess Limacha in Patan. From Patan, they went to Champaner and from Champaner, they spread all over Gujarat. Among their surnames, Bhati, Chavda, Dabhi, Gohel, Parmar and Rathod suggest their Rajput origin. Their general profession is of shaving, but in villages, they also cultivate land and their women act as midwives. In matter of religion, they follow Bijpanthi, Kabirpanthi, Ramanandi and Vallabhachari sects. In matters of social customs, they do not differ much from rest of the Hindus. Divorce and widow remarriage are allowed.

Among the cattle-breaders, the main caste is of Rabaris. They are found in Randheja, Rupal, Vasan, Kolavada, Pethapur Sardhav, Unava and Dolarana Vasana villages of this district. Bharvad is a caste of shepherds. They claim Gokul Vrindavan as their original home and are believed to be of the same Meher caste as that to which Shri Krishna's foster father, Nandraiiji belonged. Rabaris are herdsmen. They claim to be Rajputs, who instead of marrying Rajput women, married celestial damsels (*apsaras*) that is, perhaps, Charan women or daughters of god (*deviputris*), therefore, called Raha-bahari; that is, going out of the Path. Their original home is said to have been the Uttar Pradesh. They follow Bijmargi and Ramanandi

sects. Previously among them, all marriages used to take place on the same day. The Rabaris of one or more villages, who wish to have their daughters married, meet in a temple. Widow remarriage and divorce are allowed. The practice of levirate is an accepted custom among this caste. In matters of social customs, they follow the rest of the Hindus. Their main occupation is cattle-breeding and sale of milk and ghee.

Among labourers, the Vaghari is a caste deriving its name from Sanskrit, *wagura*, a net, which means tribe of netters. They are akin to the bird-catchers known as Pardhis. They claim to be Chohan Rajputs, but their surnames such as Chavan, Charan and Koli suggest a mixed people. Vagharies are divided into four main sub-divisions. Chunara, or lime-burners, who are also cultivators and fowlers; Datania who sell *catan* or tooth brushes; Vedu, who grow and sell *aria* (gourd) and live in town; and Patanis, who trade in wood and bamboos and sell chickens. The names of other subdivisions are Talbada, Champta, Kankodia, Marwadi and Saraniya. They are non-vegetarians. They generally keep goats and fowls, sell eggs, catch birds, believe in spirits and omens. They worship the Hindu goddesses, the chief among them being Bahucharaji, Kalika, Khodiar, Meldi, etc. Divorce and widow remarriage are permitted. They are found particularly in Pethapur, Sardhav, Dolarana Vasana, Unava, Rupal, Sonipur and Vasai villages of this district. In matters of social customs, they follow rest of the Hindus.

The Scheduled Castes

Most of the Scheduled Castes are local, but some of them have migrated from Marvad, viz., Maru Vankar.

Most of these castes are illiterate. The percentage of literacy is 43.22 (rural-42.09 and urban-49.57). They generally follow their hereditary profession, but some of them serve as teachers in primary schools, dressers in hospitals, clerks, peons in Government Departments, etc., Government policy of reserving certain percentage in different cadres has encouraged them to take higher education. In rural areas, they are farm labourers also. As compared to other districts of the State, the Scheduled Castes of this district are comparatively better economically and socially. The percentage of literacy is also higher, except the Valsad, Surat and the Dangs districts.

According to the 1971 Census, the population of the Scheduled Castes was 13,140 (6,749 males and 6,391 females) forming 6.55 per cent of the total population of the district as against the State percentage of 6.84. The rural-urban distribution accounted for 11,157 persons in villages as against 1,983 in the town. The following statement reveals the details of their sex-wise distribution.

STATEMENT III.6
Scheduled Castes Distributed into Rural and Urban Areas, 1971

| Sl. No. | Name of Scheduled Castes | Total Population | | | Sex | | Percentage to total population of the district. | | |
|--------------|--|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| | | Total | Rural | Urban | Males | Females | Total | Rural | Urban |
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Total | .. | 13,149 | 11,157 | 1,983 | 6,749 | 6,391 | 6.54 | 6.32 | 8.24 |
| 1 | Bhambi, Bhambli, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chama, Chambhat, Chauhan, Haralayva, Harali, Khalbha, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Telegn Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohitias Rohit, or Samgar. | 4,080 | 4,734 | 246 | 2,619 | 2,361 | 2.48 | 2.68 | 1.02 |
| 2 | Bhavgi, Mehtar, Olegana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar or Zadmalli .. | 1,311 | 1,019 | 292 | 675 | 636 | 0.66 | 0.58 | 1.21 |
| 3 | Garoda or Garo | .. | 814 | 743 | 101 | 429 | 415 | 0.42 | 0.42 |
| 4 | Mahyavanshi, Diced, Vankar or Maru Vankar | 5,131 | 4,329 | 802 | 2,584 | 2,567 | 2.56 | 2.45 | 3.34 |
| 5 | Maghval or Menghvar. | .. | 9 | 9 | .. | 8 | 1 | N | N |
| 6 | Natia or Hadi | .. | 167 | 162 | 5 | 79 | 88 | 0.08 | 0.08 |
| 7 | Shenva, Chenva, Sedma or Rawat | .. | 141 | 132 | 9 | 70 | 71 | 0.07 | 0.03 |
| 8 | Tirgar or Tarkanda | .. | 4 | 4 | .. | 2 | 2 | N | .. |
| 9 | Turi | .. | 25 | 25 | .. | 15 | 10 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| 10 | Unspecified | .. | 528 | .. | 528 | 288 | 249 | 0.26 | .. |

N = Negligible

Source : District Census Handbook, 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X.C.I, pp. 66 to 68.

The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Mahyavanshi, Dhed, Vankar or Maru Vankar (5,131) and Chamar, Bhambhi, etc. (4,980). Besides these, other important castes in the district are Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, etc. (1,311); Garoda or Garo (844); Nadia or Hadi (167) and Shenma, Chenva, Sedma or Rawat (141), etc. Details of some of the castes having social significance are given below:

Bhambhi or Chamar or Khalpa—According to 1971 Census, the Bhambhi or Chamar or Khalpa (4,980) is one of the leading groups among the Scheduled Castes in the district. They have various surnames in this district such as Bhambhi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chamgar, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Rohidas and Rohti. They are mainly found in Unava, Pethapur, Sardhav and Dolarana Vasana villages while scattered over Rupal and Kolavada villages of this district. Some of them (246 persons) are found in Gandhinagar township also. The Chamars derive their caste name from *charma*, the skin, while the Khaplas from *khal*, outer skin. They are further known as Rohidas as they are considered to be the descendants of the saint Rohidas. They claim to be Rajputs. They are mainly tanners and skin-dressers. Their work is tanning and colouring of hides, the making of leather buckets, bags and ropes, and the repairing of old shoes. They are generally vegetarian, but have no objection in eating meat or carrion. There is very little difference in their dress as compared to other backward castes. They put on short *dhoti* and shirt of coarse cloth. Their ornaments are either of gold, silver or ivory-plated. In matter of social customs they do not differ much from the rest of the backward class Hindus. They bury their dead. Their priests are Garodas. They also celebrate Hindu festivals. Their folk-song, *dhol*, *garbi* and *dandiya-ras* also play an important role in their communal life. In matter of religion, they worship the goddesses like Chamunda, Khodiyan, etc. They also worship gods like Ganesh, Shiv, etc. Some of them follow Ramdev Pir.

Bhangi—Bhangis or Bhangias (1,311) are scavengers. They are so called because they used to split (Sanskrit, Bhangi, to break) bamboo for making them into baskets. They are also called Olgana or Mehtar. They have surnames such as Chohan, Chudasama, Dafada, Jethva, Makvana, Solanki, Vaghela, Vadher and Vadhiya. These surnames suggests their origin of Rajputs and other communities. They are mainly found in Pethapur, Unava, and Sardhav while scattered over Rupal, Vasan, Kolavada, Unvarsad villages of this district while some of them (292) are also found in Gandhinagar township. They are scavengers and night-soil carriers. They worship Hanuman, Meldi, Sikotari and the basil plant. Many Bhangis are followers of Kabir, Ramanand and Nanak. Divorce and widow remarriage are allowed. A younger brother generally marries the

widow of his elder brother. Priests of their own castes or Garodas (Dhed Brahmans) officiate at all their ceremonies. They are non-vegetarian and eat flesh of every kind.

Garoda—Among the Scheduled Castes, the Garoda (844) are the priests of the Antyajas—including Bhangis. Their surnames—Dave, Joshi and Shukla, etc., suggest their Brahmanic origin, a few bear Rajput surnames such as Gohel, Parmar, etc. Like other Hindus, they observe fast on certain auspicious days, know little Sanskrit and recite hymns and passages from the Puranas. They are called Brahmans by Dheds, Bhangis, Chamars, etc., and officiate at their marriage and death ceremonies. Some Garodas are cultivators, others weave and a few act as tailors and barbers. They are mainly found in Pethapur village of this district. Divorce and widow marriage are allowed. Their dead are burried and they perform *shraddas*. They worship Hindu gods and goddess and the basil plant. Some are Ramanandi, Kabirpanthi and some are followers of the Pranami sect. Their family goddesses are Bhavani, Tulja Bhavani, Saraswati, Gayatri, Sharda, Durga, etc. Sharda is their main family goddess.

The Scheduled Tribes

The main Scheduled Tribe in the district is Bhil. Formerly they were known as the animistic tribes and now they are described as the Rani-paraj, i.e., people who dwell in the forests, the hills and the border lands.

In this district the tribal people are no longer isolated. In religion, language, habits and social customs, they are slowly integrating with the main stream of social life in the district. Slowly they are being taken in the fold of the Hindu community to which they bear close linguistic affinities. Most of the tribals are illiterate. In 1971 the percentage of literacy of the Scheduled Tribes people was 23.89 per cent (rural 11.68 per cent and urban 49.24 per cent).

They generally live on cultivation, some of them are agricultural labourers and now with the spread of education, some are engaged in Government and non-Government services.

According to the 1971 Census, the Scheduled Tribes claimed 406 persons (212 males and 194 females) forming 0.20 per cent of the total population of the district as against the State percentage of 13.99. The rural-urban distribution accounted for 274 persons in villages as against 132 in the Gandhinagar township. The following statement reveals the details of their sex-wise distribution in the population.

STATEMENT III.7
Scheduled Tribes Distributed into Rural and Urban Areas, 1971

| Sl. No. | Name of Scheduled Tribes | Total Population | | | Sex | | Percentage to total Population of the district | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---|-------|-------|
| | | Total | Rural | Urban | Males | Females | Total | Rural | Urban |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Total | .. | 405 | 274 | 132 | 212 | 194 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.55 |
| 1 | Bhil including Bhil Garasia, Dholi, Bhil, Dangri Bhil, Dangri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawra, Vassava and Vaavve. | 227 | 172 | 55 | 113 | 114 | 0.12 | 0.10 | 0.23 |
| 2 | Dhangs, including Tadvi, Tetaria and Valvi. | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | N | .. | N |
| 3 | Dubla, including Talavia or Halpati. | 13 | .. | 13 | 7 | 6 | N | .. | 0.05 |
| 4 | Gamit or Ganta or Gavit including Mavchi Pardi, Vassava, Vassava and Valvi. | 8 | .. | 3 | 3 | 5 | N | .. | 0.03 |
| 5 | Nalkda or Nayaka, including Cholivalka Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Moosa Nayaka and Nana Nayaka | 26 | 16 | 7 | 14 | 12 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.03 |
| 6 | Pardhi, including Adivacincher and Phanse Pardhi. | 33 | 32 | .. | 45 | 38 | 0.04 | 0.05 | .. |
| 7 | Patelia | 1 | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | N | .. | .. |
| 8 | Unspecified | 47 | .. | 47 | 28 | 19 | 0.03 | .. | {0.2} |

N = Negligible

Source : *District Census Handbook, 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I*, pp. 70-71.

Muslims

Among Muslims, there are two main divisions, viz., foreign Muslims and local converts. The Muslims of foreign extraction include Shaikhs, Pathans, Saiyads, Mughals, Makranis, Baluchis, etc., while the Muslims of the local converts are divided into several communities or classes such as Khojas, Maliks or Maleks, Memons, Molesalams, Momnas, Pinjaras, Vohoras, etc.

In this district only Mirs, Maleks, Pinjaras, Ghanchis, Memons and Gandhraps among the local converts are found. The Mir or Merasi, literally lords, also called Langha (singers), Dholi (drum-players), Dabhi and Dom are found in Dolarana-Vasana, and other villages of this district. In the rainy season, they work as cultivators. In the fair season, the men move about begging, singing and telling tales and playing on the drum, the fiddle and the tambourine. Their women, who dress like Hindus, stay at home and under the name of Domni and Langha, attend Mohammedan houses at marriage and other feasts and play and sing before the women. They marry only among themselves and with their Saiyad as their head form a well-managed community.

The Maleks are converted Hindus. They are found in Sardhav, Jalund, Pethapur, etc., villages of this district. They are cultivators, labourers and servicemen. The Maleks are organised in *jamats* and its rules are strictly observed. They prefer to marry among near relatives, the girl being given outside only if a suitable bridegroom is not available among them. The marriage negotiations are always initiated by the bridegroom's people by sending a *paigam* to the bride's people. This is confirmed usually by a gift of Rs. 5 from the former to the latter. Subsequently, gifts of eatables are sent to each other by both parties. In matter of the social customs, they do not differ much from other converts. They are Sunnis by religion.

The Pinjaras is a craftsman community, who are cotton-threshers. In addition to the traditional calling of threshing, which no longer suffices, they have taken to miscellaneous callings like oil-selling, small trade and private service. Since both the Ganchis and Pinjaras have taken to old-trade and since both have adopted the surname mansoori, it appears probable that the two communities are nearer to one another and may have a common origin. They are found in Pethapur, Rupal and other villages of this district. In matter of social customs like birth, marriage and death, they follow Muslim social customs. They are a poor and backward

The Ghanchis are oilmen. They are also called Ghanchi-Vohora. They are found in Unava and other villages of this district. They are descendants of Hindus of the Pinjara and Ghanchi castes. Their females dress like Hindus and adopt Hindu names. At marriage their women go singing like the Hindus with the bridegroom in procession to the bride's house and in their feasts they have Hindu dishes of *ladu*, *kansar*, etc. At death women wail and beat the breast. They are Sunni in faith. They have a *jamat*, with a headman chosen by the members.

The Memon is a corruption of *muamin* (believer), a name given to the descendants of Muslims converts from the Hindu castes of Luhanas and Kachhias. The conversion first took place in the middle of the 15th century in Sindh in response to the preaching by Saiyad Eusuf-ud-Din Kadri, a descendant of a saint of Bagdad. At that time, Manekji, the head of the eighty-four *nukas* of the Luhana community, was in favour at Nagarhattha in the court of a samma ruler named Markat Khan. Markat Khan became a follower of the Saiyad and Manekji, his two sons and 700 other Luhanas followed their rulers' example. On conversion, the saint changed the name of the community to Muamin or believers. Before leaving Sindh, he blessed his people. The Memons trace their fruitfulness and success in trade to his blessings. They are traders, goldsmiths and money-lenders. Some of them are also serving in private or Government organisations. They are found in Pethapur, village of this district. All Memons have a colloquial knowledge of Urdu. They are Sunnis of the Hanafi School. As a class, they are religious. They are very keen and careful to go for pilgrimage to Mecca. They proudly prefix Hajji (one who has gone to the pilgrimage) to their names.

The Gandhraps or Gandharvas are Muslims and are musicians. They are chiefly found in Pethapur village of this district. They play on various musical instruments and accompany dancing girls in all their performances. They are mostly labourers. Some of them are cultivators also.

Inter-Caste Relations

As in other parts of the country, inter-caste relations were very rigid a generation ago. The members of different castes and sub-castes lived in close watertight compartments in such matters as inter-dining and inter-caste marriages. The picture has greatly changed especially after Independence and the changes that have occurred in recent times are noteworthy. Inter-dining is no longer looked upon with disapproval by a Hindu anywhere in the district particularly in Gandhinagar township, though this restriction still persists in a diluted form in rural areas. Inter-caste marriages, though not very common, are more frequent than ever before and

many of the traditional restrictions on marriage based on caste are gradually disappearing as a result of the spread of education, influence of western culture, equality of sexes and consequent removal of disabilities from which women suffered in the past.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

The saints, *pirs* and such other religious leaders have played an important role in healing the sufferings of the people. They have also moulded the character and social behaviour of the people in different periods of history. Before they preached precepts, they practised them in their own lives. As a result, whatever religious discourses they held or sermons they preached had a tremendous impact on the society. In this district, number of such leaders flourished. The lives and teachings of some of the saints and *yogis* are described below:

1. *Shri Harishanker Mahetaji*—Shri Harishanker Mahetaji of Rupal (1834-1894), was a *balyogi*-who left home and became an ascetic at Ujjain. He assumed the name 'Vyankatnath' as the ascetic and became a *mahant*. He acquired the knowledge of *samadhi* from his *guru*. But later on his mother went to Ujjain and discovered him, compelled him to return home. He, thereafter, started a *Dhuli Nishal* at Rupal and thus he became Mahetaji (teacher). Finally he asked his pupils to dig a pit for *samadhi* in the field. The cave was ready and he entered in it from below the ground. He had declared to remain under-ground *samadhi* for 7 days. But after 4 days some pupils became anxious for his safety and they dug earth and brought him out. The incomplete state of *samadhi* proved fatal and he soon expired after some days.

2. *Bhakta Kevalram or Vishnutirtha*.—Bhakta Kevalram of village Rupal (1864-1928) was a famous devotee and was *guru* of Shri Mansukhram Maharaj of Koyali, who had performed a 'Shat-kundi Vishnu Yag'. He mostly stayed at Sidhpur and had created a band of *bhaktas* and *kirtankars*. He had performed 32 'Chorasis' (dinner to all Brahmans of 84 kinds) in Sidhpur town. Finally he renounced the world, became a 'Sanyasi' and assumed the name Vishnutirtha. He expired at Sidhpur, where his *padukas* (marble foot-steps) are placed by his pupils.

3. *Shri Kukeshwar Mayaram Jani*.—Shri Kukeshwar Mayaram Jani of Randheja, though blind from the very childhood, composed *bhajans* and devotional songs. People honoured him and heard his devotional songs. It is said that he had some knowledge of Mantras and Sadhana. He had composed a *garba* on Randheja village. It started thus: " શેખા સારી, રંધેજા ગામની શોખા સારી".

4. *Shri Chaman Maharaj*—Brahmachari Chamanlal Maharaj of Rupal (b. 1913) is also a well-known Bhakta, who has his followers at Mansa and Mahudi. He also established an Ashram at Bharuch. His chief pupil Shri Gaman Maharaj (Gurumukhi Maharaj) has published a book on Valmiki Ramayan. Many people are coming for Satsang of Shri ‘Chaman Maharaj’.

Over and above these saints, there are some *yogis*, who had contributed in spreading religious activities connected with Yoga Philosophy. The life of some of the prominent *yogis* are described below:

(1) *Shri Madhavji Sagalji*—Yogi Shri Madhavji Sagalji (1869-1933) was a Brahmabhatt of Rupal, who learnt *yoga* from Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati of Garudeswar, when he was a school-teacher at Sinor. He had established ‘Yoga-gnan Parvartak Karyalay’ at Bombay and also taught ‘Yoga-vidya’ to students at Benaras Hindu University for some time. He had made a public experiment of *samadhi* for 3 days. He had many pupils. His sister’s son Shri Manuvaryaji, is conducting a yogashram at Ahmadabad. His son Amarnathji is also a student of *yoga* and teaches *yoga* at Bombay.

(2) *Shri Maganlal Ganpatram*—Shri Maganlal Ganpatram Thakar of village Sardhav, who expired about four years ago, was a student of *yoga*. He had established an Ashram at Vasai (Taluka Vijapur) and practised *hath yoga* there. He did not take any food made of corn and remained on milk for many years.

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance—As regards inheritance and succession, the Hindus are governed by the Hindu Law and the Muslims by the Mohammadan Law. The system of Hindu Law, which is followed in Gujarat is the Mitakshara system in general and the Vyavhara Mayukha system in particular. The main principle of inheritance is that the property of a Hindu is never held in abeyance, but devolves on the sons on the death of the father. Under the coparcenary law in force in Gujarat, the son acquires a right in the ancestral property from the date of his conception; but the self-acquired property can be disposed of by a person as he wills, as the son does not get any inherent right in such property. The disabilities in respect of inheritance and succession from which women suffered in the past have been removed by the legislature by enacting special laws like the Hindu Marriage Act, 1936, Hindu Women’s Right to Property Act, 1937, and the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, which have introduced fundamental changes in the status of women.

The Hindu Marriage Act provides for monogamy and makes bigamy penal. The Hindu Succession Act while breaking violently with the past

lays down uniform system of inheritance and provides for equal treatment of a male and a female. When a Hindu male dies intestate, his property devolves in equal shares on his son, daughter, widow and mother.

Joint Family--The Hindu family was from time immemorial joint in food, worship and estate. It consisted of the head of the family, his wife, their sons, married and unmarried, unmarried daughters and grand children living and working together. It was the responsibility of the head of the family to get the younger members of the family married at the proper time, offer oblations to the dead, and propitiate tutelary deities. The joint income of the family was spent after all the members according to individual needs. The widowed, the orphaned, the aged and the disabled were duly looked after. With the passage of time, the bonds of joint family system have begun to loosen and the desire for individual freedom and living has necessitated change in the concept of the family as an economic unit. The need of getting higher and specialised education has separated the younger members from their family for studying at colleges which are located in towns and cities. With the spread of industrialisation and the increasing pressure of population on land, the village people have moved to large industrial centres to secure gainful employment. A large number of joint families have thus begun to disintegrate and the old social order characterised by the joint family system has been undermined under the stress of modern economic conditions and ways of life. Younger members of the family prefer to live separately rather than continue in a joint family and are particular about their own needs and comforts in preference to those of other members of the family. Despite these changes the joint family system still survives though in a diluted form without the former attachment brought about by the spirit of sacrifice and regard for common welfare.

Place of Women in Society--Women occupied a high position in the Hindu society since the ancient times. Lord Manu had declared that gods reside in those households where women are respected (यत्र नार्यस्तु पञ्चन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः।) The husband who casts off his innocent wife was punished by the king and vice versa. The wife, likewise, was supposed to worship her husband as god (पति देवो भवति) and to remain faithful to him. The status of women, however, declined after the Mohammadan invasions when seclusion or *pardah* and child marriage came into vogue during the middle ages after 1297 as a measure of safety and protection of females. The practice of *pardah* came into vogue thereafter, particularly among the Rajput chiefs, and the Zamindars as a mark of social status. Their women folk remained confined to the four walls of their houses. The seclusion was stricter in villages than in towns, and greater among the Muslims than among the Hindus. But things have changed much in modern times and the former seclusion of women has well-nigh disappeared and

became the thing of the past. Because of the liberal policy of Sayajirao III and the introduction of compulsory primary education, the women in the former Baroda State enjoyed greater freedom and had better opportunities for their progress.

The advent of Gandhiji on the scene ushered in an era of equality and liberty after 1920. During the second half of the present century, the desire for a rise in the level of living and soaring prices have created problems, unknown in the past. For the most part, it is men, who are engaged in economic activities, though in rural areas among the cultivating classes women give helping hand to their male partners in rearing cattle, looking after crops and assisting them in agricultural operations. It was only in towns that women were completely dependent on men and did not take part in any economic activity. At present, in the urban areas with the spread of education, women have come out of their homes for employment in social and economic spheres. Women of the labouring classes have always taken an active part along with males by getting themselves employed in occupations involving manual labour. They have made their mark as teachers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, writers, political leaders and social workers and even as administrators.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS-HINDUS

The Hindus observe various social customs connected with birth, marriage and death. Most of these customs and practices are common among different castes with minor variations. Important customs with their recent trends are described below.

Birth—The birth ceremonies and practices can be broadly classified into two stages, namely, pre-natal and post-natal.

In the pre-natal stage, at the time of first conception, a special ceremony known as *kholo bharvo* or *simant* is performed either on the fifth or seventh month after the conception at the husband's place. This ceremony consists of placing rice, cocoanut, etc., in the lap of the pregnant woman called "*simantini*". The prospective mother has to observe certain restrictions like non-carrying of heavy articles, non-acceptance of stale or heavy diet, etc. As regards the place of the first delivery, different castes follow different practices. Among the Patels, the first delivery normally takes place in the household of the parents of the woman, whereas in case of the Thakarda families, it normally takes place in the household of her husband, but all the articles required in connection with delivery are supplied by her parents. There is no special arrangement or selection of any particular place for delivery but one of the interior apartments of the house, having floor besmeared with cow-dung is generally preferred. In the post-natal stage, commencing from

the birth pangs, necessary assistance is taken either from a woman of the neighbouring household, relative or an indigenous *dai* and in the case of difficult and protracted delivery, medical aid is availed of. The Patidars Pay Rs. 5 to the indigenous *dai* attending the delivery. The umbilical cord or *nayado* is severed with *nadachhadi* among the Thakardas. In all the castes, the birth of a female child is not deemed an occasion for rejoicing and joy as that of a male child. If a male child is born *gur* or sweets are distributed in the Patel community. The practice of *chhatthi* is common among all the castes. On the sixth day after child's birth, known as *chhatthi*, a lamp is lighted and one blank paper and a holder and red turmeric powder are placed near the bed of the woman under the belief that on this day at midnight, the *Vidhata* or the Goddess of Fate, who controls the destiny, will write the future of the child. The child is rocked in the cradle either on the seventh or the twelfth day, when jowar or wheat corn boiled and mixed with *gur* is distributed to the relatives and neighbours.

The mother after delivery generally does not touch members of the family for ten to twenty days after which she can touch them and can also do light work. After one month and a quarter, the father's sister and other relatives come with some clothes or ornaments for the newborn child and the *namkaran* or naming ceremony which is the main prerogative of the father's sister is performed, in return of which a pair of clothes is given to her by her brother. When the child is first taken to its father's house, the mother from her parents' side gets certain clothes, ornaments, etc., which is known as *jianu*.

The duration of suckling by the child varies from one to one year and a half. It is served with food when it becomes one year old, as by about this time generally the child starts walking and is able to digest the food taken. The *babri utarawavi* (Chuda-Karma) or the ceremony of cutting the hair for the first time before the goddess Bahucharaji or Ambaji or any other family deity is undertaken either when the male child becomes one year old or in certain cases according to the convenience of the household between one and five years after birth. A sacred thread ceremony or *upanayan sanskar* is performed only in the case of a male child among Brahman caste.

In the context of the altered social and economic conditions, the various ceremonies and practices connected with birth are no longer strictly followed. The people perform these ceremonies according to their means and convenience.

Marriage and Morals—Generally, the Hindus follow the traditional Vedic marriage customs, which, with the passage of time, have undergone tremendous changes in regard to the ritual details. But broadly speaking,

both in concept and practice, the Hindus of the district follow the traditional marriage ceremonies. According to the Hindu philosophy and tradition, a marriage is a *samskara* or a sacrament, which calls for the performance of elaborate rites and ceremonies prescribed in the Gruhyasutras to enable a person to enter *grahasthashram*.

Marriage Ceremonies—The customary marriage ceremonies are elaborate. One to three days before the day of wedding ceremonies regarding the *mandap muhurta* (erection of the marriage booth) and the worship of Ganapati and *gotraj* (family deity) are performed at the houses of both the bride and the bridegroom. On the day of marriage or on the day previous, bride's maternal uncle and his wife bring present (*mosala*) for the bride and her mother. The present to the bride consist of a *panetar*, (a wedding sari) and ornaments especially *chudo* (bangle) made of ivory to be worn at the time of the wedding. Similary, the bridegroom also receives presents from his maternal uncle.

The marriage usually takes place at the bride's place. The *jan* or the bridal party starts in procession with a musical band or drummers and pipers in front of the bridegroom and the women folk singing in the rear. If the bride belongs to another village or town, journey to the bride's village or town is performed by any convenient mode of transport. On their arrival at the destination, they are received ceremoniously by the parents of the bride accompanied by their male relations. The party is then taken to the place known as *utara*, specially reserved for their stay. Before the wedding procession starts, the women folk of the bride's party go to the *utara* with *kalvo* consisting of sweets.

The wedding procession is usually a very grand affair. The bridegroom, who is called *var raja*, receives all the attention as if he were a king for the time being. He rides a richly decorated horse or sits in a horse-carriage or a motor car. Now a days many bridegrooms prefer going on foot in a simple fashion to the house of the bride. When the procession reaches the bride's place a ceremony called '*ponkhyu*' is performed in which a bride's mother waves four times a miniature plough, a grinding pestle and a churning stick, over the head of the bridegroom and places at the bridegroom's feet a *samput* made of two earthen cups or *kodia* painted white and tied together with a red string with their edges touching each other. The bridegroom treads on the samput and breaks it to pieces and entering the booth, takes his seat in the *mayara* or booth specially decorated for the occasion.

The marriage rites and ceremonies to be performed at the wedding are generally the same among all the Hindus, though they may vary in some minor details according to the caste and region. The rites commonly in

vogue are in order *Kanyadana*, *vivaha homa*, *panigrahana*, *lajjahoma* and *saptapadi*. These are interspersed with a number of minor ceremonies such as feet washing, honey-sipping, rice-throwing, instant naming, present-making, oath-taking, etc.

The Hindu *shastras* ordain that a person should not marry in his own *gotra* and within six degrees of relationship on the father's side and four or five on the mother's side. Only Brahmins, as they know their *gotras*, can abide by the rule of *gotra* exogamy. Usually, the *gotra* of the father alone and not that of the mother is considered when a marriage alliance is to be formed. Even this restriction has been showing signs of relaxation in recent times. As a general rule, a Hindu is supposed to marry within the same caste or sub-caste. Any marriage outside is considered contrary to the caste system. These restrictions are gradually loosening and marriages outside the caste and sub-caste are on the increase particularly among the advanced and educated classes.

The Hindu scriptures enjoin that the bride be given as a gift to a suitable bridegroom. This is called *kanyadana*. In course of time it came to be associated with the giving of a dowry which caused acute hard-ship to the poor. In response to a strong agitation against the continuance of this social evil, an Act abolishing the giving or taking of dowry at the time of marriage was passed by the Indian Parliament in 1960, and any contravention of the provisions of this law has been made penal since then. This system is not prevalent in the district though parents give golden ornaments and clothes according to their financial position.

Though the general pattern is the same, variations in celebration of marriage, rules and methods of selection of partners and minor ritual differences are found among different castes according to their level of education, tradition, culture and economic and social status. Child marriages were prevalent among Patels and Thakardas and other backward classes which, now under the compulsion of the law and social reforms are gradually disappearing. In the past, it was said that among the Kadva Kanbis and in Shepherd community an oral understanding was arrived at to fix the betrothal in advance on the understanding that if the children born are a boy and a girl, they will marry.

Betrothal or *sagai* precedes all ceremonies. This practice is not now generally adopted among elites of the district because social, educational and cultural activities among the youngsters give them ample opportunities of selecting their partners without formal ceremonial process of *sagai*. But among the conservative and lower castes, the practice of *sagai* or betrothal is still followed. At the time of betrothal, the girl's father comes with an offer. In some castes like Thakardas, they keep up *bhanigadias* or go-betweens. In a number of castes the betrothal is performed after negotia-

tions and proper inquiry through relatives, about social, educational and economic conditions, and family status of the partners. After one or two months, there is a ceremony of giving *chundadi* and some ornaments to the girl as a token of betrothal being settled.

In former times, when child-marriages were prevalent, the bride did not accompany the bridegroom on his return home. This is not the case now. The bridal couple is received ceremonially at the house steps. They together offer worship to the *matrukas*, *gotraj*, *rannade*, or any other nuptial deities that were installed in the household at the commencement of the marriage festivity. The bride and bridegroom then untie the *mindhal* (*randia dumetorum*) from each others wrist, feed each other with *kansar* and play with *kodi* (shell money). With a *vadhamana* or thanks giving at the temple of the village deity, the marriage ceremony comes to an end.

Recent Trends—The social outlook of the people about marriage has considerably undergone change-in recent times with the spread of education and assisted by social legislation and economic pressure. A number of undesirable social practices which were strictly observed in the past are given up under the changed circumstances and in the atmosphere of freedom and independence, the people now think on fresh lines. The practice of child marriages, which was common in the former times, has well-nigh disappeared and the age of marriage substantially advanced both in case of males and females. In the case of males, the age has gone beyond 20 and in the case of female beyond 18. Child marriage has been declared unlawful by a Central Law. Most of the restrictions which were accepted as a matter of course and scrupulously observed in the past are being modified and relaxed to suit the modern trends of thought and ways of living. Inter-caste marriages are not uncommon among the younger generations especially in towns and cities. Bigamy is prohibited by law and made penal. Widowhood is no longer considered a mark of social superiority with the result that widow remarriages are performed without any social stigma. Divorce is now permitted under the law and freely practised by some of the lower castes which permit them by tradition and custom. Its extent among the higher castes is comparatively less. Divorce is obtained by having recourse to a court of law as provided under the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955. Remarriages are, however, common among the lower castes where the custom known as *natra* is prevalent. Widow remarriage in the form of *diyavatu* that is to say levirate is permitted and practised among some of the lower castes, among whom a widow of an elder brother marries the younger brother of the husband, irrespective of the difference in their ages. This is practised in Shepherd community.

Death—When it is known that the death of a person is now imminent, a lamp of ghee is lighted and the *Ganga jal* and leaves of *tulsi* or basil plant are put in the mouth of the person on death bed. No such thing

is done in the Thakarda caste. When a person from the Thakarda caste goes on a horse bare-headed for carrying the mortuary articles, the whole village comes to know that a death has occurred in that caste. In the Kanbi caste, the dead body is bathed and placed on the floor and besmeared with earth and cow-dung. Curd is then put in the mouth of the dead body. The people from the village and relatives gather together. *Thathadi* or bier is prepared from bamboo sticks. A male corpse is covered with a white cloth but a female corpse is wrapped in a coloured cloth (*chundadi*). Four persons carry the corpse on their shoulders from the four ends of the bier with four coconuts hanging at each end. At the outskirts of the village, the coconut is broken and the bier is again carried to the place of funeral. In the Patel and Brahman castes, only children below twelve months are buried; all the rest are cremated. *Agni sanskar* or lighting the pyre is generally performed by the eldest son or brother of the deceased. In case there is no son, one of the near relatives in the paternal line performs this ceremony. On the next day, the ashes and bones are immersed in the river Sarasvati at Sidhpur, which is also one of the holy places for performing *matru shraddha*. Among the Patels, this is done on the third day of the cremation when an earthen pot full of water is placed on a heap of ash at the place where the dead body was cremated. Some of the Thakardas bury their dead in a pit about 7 feet deep. A significant departure by the Thakardas is that unlike other castes like the Patels and Brahmans, they carry their dead body to the cremation ground with the beating of drum and throwing *gulal* or red powder all along the way. The head of the dead body while burning or burying is kept facing south, which is believed to be the direction of Yama, the God of Death. After the dead body is carried away from the house, women go weeping for some distance behind the corpse. Weeping and breast-beating continue at the house till the *daghush* or the mourners return from the cremation ground. This custom, which is known as *kutavun*, has now gradually disappeared from the advanced classes. The occasion becomes all the more pathetic when the couplets known as *rajiya* or *marashia* are recited. In the Thakarda caste, a Mirani woman who is well versed in reciting *rajiyas* is specially called for this purpose.

The period of mourning extends to thirteen days from the date of death. During this period, the relatives and acquaintances of the deceased come for mourning and giving solace. This custom is known as *kan*, when relatives from other places come weeping to the house of the deceased. Women put black clothes during the period of mourning. The *shraddha* ceremony for propitiating the spirit of the deceased is continued for three days starting from the 11th and ending on the 13th day in advanced castes. Among the Brahmans and the Kanbis, the religious rites include ablutions of water and offerings of rice-balls or *pinda*, etc., to the deceased. On the twelfth day or *barama*, a community dinner takes place. Originally, the *barama*

was an important after death ceremony, but now a days such death dinners are becoming rare. A peculiar custom that prevailed at the *barana* ceremony in the past was giving of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 by relatives by way of *dhal*. Such a voluntary contribution gave much-needed financial help to the bereaved family which was enabled to meet the expenditure incurred on such occasions. On the thirteenth day or *terma*, a bed is spread wherein clothes, utensils, ornaments, shoes, lamp, etc., are placed and offered to the Brahman priest in the belief that the deceased will get these amenities in heaven. A small ladder made of silver is also offered to make the way to heaven easy for the departed soul. As all these articles are placed on a bedstead, this ceremony is known as *sajja bharvi* (*shayya*). They are given as *dan* or gift to the family priest or to the daughter of the deceased.

The Thakarda and Vaghari castes believe in evil spirits and also have faith in re-birth which is a belief common to all the Hindus. A dead person is reborn according to the law of *karma*, according to his good deeds or misdeeds. The day on which a person has died is observed every year on the same day in the dark half of Bhadrapad and *shraddha* ceremony is performed to appease the departed soul.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS—MUSLIMS

The Chief Muslim rites and ceremonies relating to pregnancy and birth, initiation, marriage and death are described below as followed by Muslims in general and Sunnis in particular.

Birth—The first pregnancy ceremony performed in the seventh or ninth month takes place at the husband's house. Thereafter the expectant mother goes to her father's place. On the seventh, fourteenth or twenty-first day after child birth comes the purely Muslim rite of *akika* sacrifice which has two parts, namely, the shaving of child's head and the killing of one or two goats.

The Bismillah ceremony which consists of taking the name of god, is performed when a child completes four years, four months and four days. The child is made to repeat, after the priest, the opening chapter of the Quran and the relatives are given a feast to commemorate the occasion. The *Khatna* ceremony (circumcision) takes place when the boy is six or seven years old. There is a rejoicing and a dinner is given in honour of the boy or a girl when he or she observes his or her first Ramzan fast.

Marriage—In general, a Muslim marriage lasts for two to three days. On the day of marriage, the bridegroom's relatives go to the bride's house in a procession called *hari* or *sachak* carrying in trays gifts of sweetmeats, dried fruits, ornaments and articles of dress for the bride. The party comes back with their trays refilled with clothes for the bridegroom. Some time

during the early hours of night, the groom dresses himself in wedding clothes and with a *sehra* (flower sheet) fastened round his forehead rides on a horse, and starts in a procession (Barat) accompanied by friends and relatives with a musical band in front. At the bride's house, the bridegroom is led to his seat. Then the *kazi* asks the bride's agent whether she accepts so and so as her husband in consideration of *meher* (dower) as decided. If she assents, he takes the declaration of two other witnesses. He then puts the same question to the bridegroom. The proceedings are recorded by the *kazi* who blesses the couple. The *nikah* or wedding ceremony is followed by an entertainment programme after which the bridegroom returns home with the bride.

Marriage, between cousins, both parallel and cross, is not prohibited among the Muslims, that with the first cousin being preferred. However, sister's daughter is under incest taboo. A Muslim cannot marry his foster-mother or foster-sister, unless the foster brother and sister were nursed by the same women at intervals widely separated. Polygamy is restricted to four wives, but is not very common these days. A man may not marry his wife's sister during his wife's lifetime unless she has been divorced. Widow remarriage is practised but avoided by many noble families as a mark of social superiority. A widow can marry her husband's brother or relative and a widow can marry his wife's sister or relative. Talaq (divorce) as recognised by the Muslim Law is at the option of the husband, but among higher classes, it is taken as a last resort when all attempts at reapprochement fail.

Death Ceremonies—To a person about to die, the Sura-e-yasin from the Quran is read out in an under tone. The creed and prayer for forgiveness are recited so that the dying person may also repeat it, and a few drops of honey or sugared water are put into his mouth. After he breathes his last, the body is laid on a wooden platform, washed and perfumed. A *kafan* (shroud) consisting of three white pieces of cloth to which two more pieces, namely, *simaband* and *odhani* are added in the case of a female, is put on the dead body. Then the bier is lifted on the shoulders of the relatives and other Muslims and borne away to the graveyard, where the last prayers are offered. Till the third day, no food is cooked in the house of mourners; but friends or relatives of the deceased send cooked meals or cook them at their expense at the house of mourners.

The only form of mourning laid down by the Mohammadan Law is strict seclusion of the widow in the case of the death of the head of a family. Unless forced to do so, she never leaves the house for four months and ten days. Besides this strictly Mohammadan observance, some of the customs prevalent among the Hindus are also observed. The widow breaks her bangles and never wears them again. She does not put on a nose-ring. If she is young, she wears dark coloured dress; if old, a white one.

SOCIAL EVILS AND CRIMES

The people of this district are generally reported to be free from such social evils as drinking, gambling and prostitution, except among the small section of Thakarda, Vaghari and other backward castes. Sporadic cases of drinking during ceremonial occasions such as marriage or festivals do occur. The evil of gambling exists but proportionately not alarming.

HOME LIFE

Housing—In the district, according to the 1971 Census, the total number of houses was 55,795, of which 35,725 (64.03 per cent) were used as residence, shop-cum-residence and workshop-cum-residence, 11,510 (20.63 per cent) were vacant and the rest 8,560 (15.34 per cent) were used for non-residential purposes. Of the total houses, 49,005 houses (87.83 per cent) were in the rural areas and 6,790 houses (12.17 per cent) in the urban areas. Taking the district as a whole, on an average, out of every one thousand Census houses, 206 were vacant as against 794 which were occupied. People staying out of the district for service, business and other economic pursuits, keep their houses vacant in their absence so that the vacant houses may be available to them for temporary stay during school vacations and marriage season.

According to the 1971 Census, the number of households was 35,815, as compared to residential houses which numbered 35,725. Out of 1,000 Census households in the district, 878 households had their owned houses and 122 households lived in rented houses in the rural areas. While in the urban areas, out of 1,000 Census households, 572 households had their owned houses and 428 lived in rented houses.

Most of the houses in villages had walls of burnt bricks or mud. The walls of burnt bricks were plastered with clay and cowdung emulsion, though grass, leaves, reeds, (wattle and daub) or bamboo were in frequent use in the construction of hutments of those who were poor. The roofs were mostly covered with *deshi* or country tiles, though the preference for Vilayati or Manglore tiles is now-a-days patent in some villages. The flooring in a majority of village houses was of beaten earth covered with cowdung emulsion. Stone and cement tiles are used in houses of the well-to-do people.

1. The statements are reproduced at the end of this chapter from Census of India 1971 (Gujarat, Housing Report, Housing Tables and Subsidiary Tables, Part IV A & B).
 - (a) Statement III.12 showing Census houses and the uses to which they are put.
 - (b) Statement III.13 showing Distribution of Census houses by predominant material of wall and predominant material of roof.
 - (c) Statement III.14 showing Households classified by number of members and number of rooms occupied.

In the Gandhinagar township, 81.89 per cent of the dwellings had walls of burnt bricks, 12.59 per cent had mud walls, 1.10 per cent had walls of grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo, while in roofing material 76.66 per cent of the dwellings had concrete or R.B.C. or R.C.C. roofs, 6.77 per cent had roofs of corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets and 1.63 per cent had roofs of grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, wood or bamboo¹.

LAYOUT OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Town—The general layout of large-sized villages in this district appears to be of the same pattern with little variations according to the local situations. The traditional structure of wards according to the castes or occupation still exists. The Gandhinagar township is situated on the left bank of river Sabarmati. This new township is linked with Ahmadabad on the south by a direct road, having a straight alignment and a right of way 91.44 m. wide between the Capital and the railway station of Khodiar about ten kilometers to the west. The site is conveniently located from the point of view of transport. The airport at Ahmadabad is midway between Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad city.

The pattern of main city roads is generally rectangular forming a grid one of kilometer by three-fourth kilometer. The river side road follows the natural features and forms a crescent, skirting the recreational area along the river front. The main roads of township have been so oriented as to be helpful in orienting the various buildings correctly with respect to light and air ventilation. As a result of the traffic system, the main functions in the city, like the Government Offices, City Centre, Shopping Centre, Riverside Recreational Area, Industrial Area, etc., are accessible to residential communities by way of cycle pedestrian ways independent of the motor roads.

The regular pattern of main roads divides the city into rectangular 'sectors' measuring one kilometer by three-fourth kilometer with an area of 75 hectares (185 acres). Each of these sectors accommodates, on an average, residential community of about 7,000 persons with the necessary facilities like schools, shopping, playgrounds, parks, etc. The town is divided into 30 sectors. The distribution mains are laid down in such a manner that each sector gets main passing along two sides, i.e., on east and on west of the sectors running from north to south.

A 'district centre' is provided for a group of four or five residential communities. The population served by each district centre is about 40,000 to 50,000. It is to have shops of selective nature, restaurant, cinema, dispensary, police station, post office, banks, club and playfield for organised games. There are four such district centres in the town. All the community facilities such as primary and secondary school, shopping centre, community

centre, parks and playgrounds, dispensary, police chowky, Rangamanch, site for religious purpose, etc., are provided along the cycle pedestrian ways forming continuous green spaces in each sector. Nine underpasses are sanctioned to be constructed at points where these cycle pedestrian ways are crossing the main town roads.

Villages—As regards small villages the old pattern has not changed to any appreciable extent. In general, every village has localities earmarked for different castes. In a good number of villages there is a central place known as chowk public place called *chora* housing the temple of Rama which serves as a meeting place for elderly people. Close to the village gate and often outside it is what is commonly known as Harijanvas where the Scheduled Castes people stay in their mud-walled hutments. Next to it are the dwellings of other Backward Classes like Vaghri, etc. The houses of the so called higher classes are generally situated in the centre of village followed by those of artisan and service classes. The integrated layout of the houses also varies according to castes. The houses of traders or artisans are usually shop-cum-residences or workshop-cum-residences. A Brahman's house is usually provided with a separate kitchen and waterroom with a corner reserved for worshipping the household deity. The houses of the backward classes are mostly single room tenements with a varandah in front. With the increasing efforts now made by Government to improve living conditions of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes and Castes their newly constructed houses are much better planned and provided with greater comforts. A major part of the houses in villages in this district is found to be one room tenements with a *parsal* or *osri* in the front. Dwellings with more than one room are mostly found to be occupied by higher and well-to-do classes. Most of the houses have an open courtyard in front or at the back enclosed by a wall where the agriculturists keep their cattle and the village artisans have their household industry. Separate rooms for storing, living or sleeping are unknown in such dwellings though separate kitchens are not altogether absent. Ventilation and sanitation facilities are meagre. In the past ventilation was not found indispensable to villages whose economic activity kept them busy in fields. Nor was its provision possible in their small sized dwellings. To them the prime use of housing was safety and protection of their scanty belonging and cattle against adverse climatic conditions, wild animals and thieves, but the new structures that are now built do possess adequate ventilation facilities. Air and light are appreciated to a far greater extent than in the past as evidenced by the opening of more windows or widening of the ventilators in the wall. Mud walls are being replaced by burnt bricks or cement walls and country tiles by Manglore tiles. The desire on the part of village people for a better and decent living is evidenced by new structures which are more airy and spacious. The trend thus indicates significant changes in living conditions which are far better than in the past due to improvement of economic condition in the countryside. There is

also a move in many villages to construct houses on the outskirt of the village to avoid congestion by converting agricultural land into non-agricultural one for housing purposes.

FURNITURE AND DECORATION

The type of furniture used in decorations made in the households is a way reveal the status, the economic condition and the cultural background of the householders. It is an essential item for comfortable living. In urban households, various types of furniture are usually found. A rich family residing in a spacious residence with separate bed-rooms and drawing-rooms usually has a sofa-set, a few chairs, teapoys, study tables, bed-steads and other items of furniture made of wood. Among other items in well-to-do family are a radio-set, wooden or steel cup-boards and decorative mirrors, wall-show-case decorated with toys, wall-clocks, etc. In an orthodox household, the doorways are decorated with *torans* made of glass beads. Their houses are decorated with curtains, flower-pots, table lamps, pictures-and delicate pieces of wood-work. An ordinary educated middle class family too has some pieces of furniture on a moderate scale. Others are satisfied with a simple cot and a chair or two of ordinary type. Hinchko, or a swing seems to be favourite with upper classes of people in urban areas.

People in villages are not generally furniture oriented. A well-to-do cultivator uses cots or a few chairs, an easy chair, a table, wooden or steel-cup board or a *patara* to store his valuables, a *pat*, mirror and a simple wall-clock. An ordinary family generally has pictures of gods and goddesses and a calendar on the wall for decoration. Sometimes they write good thoughts having religious or ethical bearings on the walls of their houses or their walls are sometimes decorated with simple drawings with indigo. They decoratively arrange metal kits on the shelf. Their doorways are decorated with *torans* which are either embroidered or prepared from coloured cloth. The Muslims generally prefer wooden furniture and glass and cheap metal vessels.

FOOD, DRESS AND ORNAMENTS

Food—The Hindus in general are vegetarians in this district. They normally take two meals a day, but those doing physical work including labourers, agriculturists, field workers and village artisans take three meals a day, a breakfast in the morning, full meal at noon and supper at night. The Jains are the only exceptions to this rule because their religious precepts enjoin them to finish evening meals before sunset. The Koli, Harijan, Chamar, Vaghari and other backward classes and Muslims take non-vegetarian food occasionally. During the last fifty years, tea has become a popular beverage among all the classes of people. The table below gives details about the food pattern of the people.

STATEMENT III.8.
Food of the People

| Community/Group/Castes | Rural/Urban | Morning meal or breakfast | Afternoon meal | Evening meal | | | |
|---|-------------|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| <i>Hindus</i> | | | | | | | |
| Agriculturists, Traders, Artisans, Field workers, Labourers, etc. | Rural | <i>Rotla</i> or Loaf of <i>Bajri</i> or <i>Josar</i> , Bhakhari of wheat with tea, or <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>Bajri</i> with milk or <i>Chhash</i> (buttermilk) or <i>Bhakhari</i> or bread with tea. | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>Bajri</i> or <i>Jowar</i> , curry and vegetable, pulses, etc. | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>Bajri</i> , or <i>Jowar</i> , curry and vegetable, pulses, etc. | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>Bajri</i> , <i>Khichadi</i> , <i>ghenash</i> , <i>chhash</i> , etc. | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>Bajri</i> , <i>Khichadi</i> , <i>curry</i> , <i>vegetable</i> , etc. | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>Bajri</i> , <i>Khichadi</i> , <i>curry</i> , <i>vegetable</i> , etc. |
| Rajput | Rural | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>bajri</i> with tea. | <i>Rotla</i> and vegetable, <i>dat</i> or <i>curry</i> | <i>Rotla</i> or <i>Khichadi</i> and vegetable curry | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— |
| Urban | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— |
| Rabari | Rural | Tea | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>bajri</i> , vegetable, <i>ghenash</i> , <i>khichadi</i> of <i>bajri</i> , <i>curry</i> , <i>milk</i> or <i>chhash</i> , onion, chillies, etc. | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>bajri</i> , <i>Khichadi</i> of <i>bajri</i> , <i>curry</i> , <i>milk</i> or <i>chhash</i> , onion, chillies, etc. | <i>Rotla</i> , vegetable, <i>Khichadi</i> and other non-vegetarian items. | <i>Rotla</i> , vegetable, <i>Khichadi</i> and other non-vegetarian items. | <i>Rotla</i> , vegetable, <i>Khichadi</i> and other non-vegetarian items. |
| Harjan, Chamar, Vaghri, Koli, etc. | Urban | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— |
| Muslims | Urban | Tea | <i>Rotla</i> or loaf of <i>bajri</i> or wheat, pulses, vegetable mixed with goats flesh, eggs, hens and flesh of birds and animals. | <i>Rotla</i> , <i>fish</i> , <i>polar</i> , etc. | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— |
| | Urban | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— | —Do— |

Source : Based on information received from the Head-masters of various schools of the Gandhinagar district.

Dress--The type of dress varies according to sex, age, marital status, caste, economic condition and seasons. There is no remarkable difference in the dress put on by the people in this district from those in other parts of the State. The youngsters have commonly adopted shirts or bush-shirts and modern pants. The head-dress of any kind has gone almost out of fashion among the younger generation; only some of older people, social workers and merchants use it.

In winter to protect from the cold, people prefer woollen clothes, such as suit, coat, jersey, sweater, etc., while in other seasons they normally put on cotton, terene or terry-cotton clothes.

During the last three decades, the dress styles have undergone a tremendous change. The starting of the Swadeshi Movement by Mahatma Gandhi, who stressed simplicity in dress was responsible for the change in traditional dress of the people. The sophisticated classes of society discarded foreign clothes and some made bonfire of foreign clothes and readily resorted to simple clothing made of *khadi*, which had become an emblem of nationalism. The shortage of cloth during World War II, which continued in the post-war period was another reason for the change in attire. After Independence because of improved communication and contacts with other regional people, inter-State and international pattern of dresses have become popular. Films also made great influence on the dresses and fashions of the youngmen. The following table gives details of the dress pattern of different castes and social groups.

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STATEMENT III.9
Dress of the People

| Community/Group Castes | Rural Urban | Males | | Females | | Boys | | Girls | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Upper garment | Lower garment | Upper garment | Lower garment | Upper garment | Lower garment | Upper garment | Lower garment |
| | | Headwear | | | | | | | |
| <i>Hindus</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| Vania, Brahmaan, Puriel, etc. | Rural | <i>Khaanis</i> or Shirt, or busk-shirt or <i>jabbho</i> or <i>bandi</i> , etc. | <i>Dhoti</i> or <i>Pejjama</i> , pant or <i>lengho</i> | <i>Topi</i> or <i>Payali</i> or <i>feling</i> | <i>Sari</i> , blouse or <i>choi</i> <i>ghayaro</i> | <i>Khamis</i> or shirt | <i>Chaddi</i> or <i>lengho</i> | Frock, blouse or <i>choli</i> | Skirt, <i>chanijo</i> or <i>ghaghri</i> |
| | Urban | Shirt or busk-shirt, <i>jabbho</i> , coat, etc. | Pant or <i>lengho</i> | <i>Topi</i> | —do— | —do— | —do— | One-piece Mini-skirt, <i>lungi</i> , bel- bottom and various types of pants. <i>Chanijo</i> | |
| Rajput, Thakor, Garasia, etc. | Rural | Shirt or busk-shirt | <i>Surval</i> or <i>payjama</i> or <i>dhotti</i> | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | <i>Odhani</i> , <i>choli</i> or frock | |
| | Urban | <i>Angadi</i> or <i>jabbho</i> | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | <i>Odhani</i> or <i>choli</i> or frock | |
| Rabari | Rural | <i>Angadi</i> or <i>jabbho</i> | Thick <i>dhoti</i> or or <i>lengho</i> | Red colour- ed <i>fento</i> or <i>faliyu</i> | Embroider- ed <i>chanijo</i> (thick and coloured <i>Odhanu</i> , thick sari or <i>pachheda</i>) | Embroider- ed <i>chanijo</i> (thick and coloured <i>Odhanu</i> , thick sari or <i>pachheda</i>) | —do— | <i>Chaddi</i> or <i>lengho</i> | |
| | Urban | Shirt or busk-shirt | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | <i>Odhani</i> or <i>choli</i> or frock, | |
| Muslims | Rural | —do— | <i>Lengho</i> or <i>tangri</i> , <i>perfume</i> or pant | <i>Topi</i> , <i>turkish</i> or <i>fez cap</i> | <i>Payjamo</i> , <i>ijar</i> | Shirt or bush-shirt | —do— | <i>Pajjama</i> , <i>chaddi</i> , or <i>lengho</i> or <i>payjamo</i> | |
| | Urban | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | —do— | <i>Pajjama</i> , <i>chaddi</i> , <i>ijar</i> or <i>gurara</i> . | |

Source :

Based on information received from the Head-masters of various schools of the Gandhinagar district.

Ornaments—To decorate and enhance the beauty and forms, ornaments are used both by males and females from time immemorial. Ornaments have undergone changes from time to time according to the prevailing fashion. They also differ from community to community. The change is effected not only in their style or design but also in their size, shape, weight and contents. The ornaments used in the past were generally simple, but were solid and heavy. Those in vogue at present are much lighter, refined and sophisticated in design. There is a tendency to use light silver ornaments in preference to heavy gold ornaments as a measure of economy. In the past, ornaments used to serve as decoration and investment and insurance against economic difficulties. The table below gives details of the ornaments used by the people in this district.



STATEMENT III.10
Ornaments of the People

| Caste-group 1 | Rural/ Urban 2 | Rural/ Urban 2 | Male Ornaments 3 | Female Ornaments 4 |
|---|----------------------|--|---|--|
| <i>Hindus</i> Vania, Brahman, Patel, etc. or Anjana Patidar, etc. | Rural | Kanthi or chain round the neck, gold or silver ring in finger, wrist-watch, etc. | Sankala or <i>sanyar</i> or <i>Kadla</i> or light silver <i>ser</i> or <i>sero</i> or <i>machhli</i> or <i>kambi</i> or zero or <i>vedh</i> on the feet; bangles or <i>chudi</i> on the wrist; <i>kadu</i> or lockets on the arm, <i>har</i> or <i>hansis</i> or chain or <i>magnala</i> around the neck and <i>mangal sutra</i> if married; <i>kadi</i> or <i>kap</i> or <i>latingiya</i> or <i>vela</i> or <i>batti</i> made of gold or pearls or precious stone set in gold on ear, <i>kandoro</i> on waist, ring on finger; <i>chaini</i> , <i>nathi</i> , or <i>kanti</i> in the nose and <i>chak</i> or <i>chap</i> or <i>chipiya</i> to fix-up the hair. | |
| | Urban | —Do— | As above—but now in urban area there is a fashion of putting bangles on one hand while the wrist-watch is put on other hand. | |
| | | | Rabari: <i>Viniti</i> , <i>Doro</i> , button, etc. | Rabari-tali, <i>kad'a</i> , <i>sanyari</i> or <i>toda</i> , <i>kadu</i> or ivory- plated churolis |
| | | | Rajput: <i>Sankala</i> , <i>kadla</i> , <i>sanyar</i> , ivory-plated <i>chada</i> , etc. | Rajput-Sankala, <i>kadla</i> , <i>sanyar</i> , ivory-plated <i>chada</i> , etc. |
| | | | Thakarda <i>kadla</i> , <i>folio</i> , silver <i>baijtanah</i> , etc. | Thakarda <i>kadla</i> , <i>folio</i> , silver <i>baijtanah</i> , etc. |
| | | | Kshatriya } <i>viniti</i> , <i>marrhi</i> , or <i>Anjana</i> } <i>viniti</i> , <i>kandoro</i> , Patidar } etc. | Kshatriya } <i>vadi</i> , <i>teela</i> , <i>anganiya</i> , or <i>Anjana</i> } <i>hansi</i> , <i>tumpyo</i> , <i>ramnati</i> , etc. Patidar } |
| | Urban | —Do— | | —Do— |
| | Rural | Silver <i>doro</i> round the neck, <i>Kandoro</i> around the waist, a ring in finger, etc. | <i>Kanthi</i> or <i>Tavij</i> round the neck, <i>nathani</i> studed with pearl in the nose, bangles on the wrist, hanging earring on ear, <i>ranzat</i> , etc. | —Do— |
| | Urban | | | |

Source:

Based on information received from the Head Masters of various schools of the Gandhinagar district.

COMMUNAL LIFE

*The Garbal and Ras*²—Folk-dance called *garba* or *rasda* is a very interesting and important form of cultural activity. The word *garba* is derived from *Garbha Dipa*. The *garbo* is the variety of female singing and music peculiar to Gujarat. It is generally associated with the worship of Shakti in the nine days' festival falling in first half of Ashvin. It is the autumnal festival that leads a charm to the midnight songs of Gujarati ladies moving in a circle with perforated earthen pots with lamps inside shining on the head like stars in firmament. Dr. Majmudar has stated that a *garbo* is a singing party where men but oftener women move round and round in a circle, and sing to the accompaniment of a rhythmical and uniform clap of hands. A more concentrated piece, less descriptive and treating of one passion or one situation is known as a *garbi*. It is generally recited by men. The *ras* or congregational music belonging to a pastoral stage of society dates in Gujarat from a very early date. The *ras* of Shri Krishna in Gokula on the full-moon day of Ashvin was naturally a favourite theme with many of our Gujarati poets. The *ras*, a circular dance in which one is the leaders, as Shri Krishna was among cowherd women, was called Hallisaka; and a circular concert formed of sixteen, twelve or eight males or females by whom a song was sung keeping time and pace, was known as a *ras*. This is the genesis of our medieval Dandia-ras.

*Bhavai*³ and *Ram-lila*—Bhavai is another traditional mode of entertainment. It is a folk-dram performed at night, and having as its themes, some religious or social anecdotes which are didactic and entertaining. The earliest person connected with Bhavai in Gujarat is one Asayita Thakar, who hailed from Sidhpur in North Gujarat in the early 14th century. He is credited to have composed 365 "shows", one each for everyday of the year for the worship of Devi Ambica. The Bhojakas or the Targalas, whose caste supplied all the actors for the modern stage, are said to have descended from this Asayita Thakar.

Bhavai is originally associated with the dramatic performances of the glorious deeds of the Goddess Bhavani or Amba. These are even today, acted for the whole night of vigil during the Navratri festival before the sacred image of Ambaji, Bahucharaji or Kalika, even by some of the highest of the Brahmins of Gujarat (Nagars). Ram-lila is also a type of folk-drama. It depicts the life of Lord Rama, and is played in the

1. MAJMUDAR, M. R., *Cultural History of Gujarat*, Bombay, 1965, p. 300.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 290.

3. MAJMUDAR, M. R., *Gujarat Its Art-Heritage*, Bombay, 1968, p. 121.

villages. It gives entertainment with religious teachings. It substituted the theatre, when there was no organised theatre in rural areas.

The *bhavai* provided good diversion to village-folk. Its usefulness still lies in its spontaneity, its folk-lore and entertainment to the villagers who easily follow and enjoy it. It brings entertainment cheaply to their door-steps. After Independence, efforts are, therefore, being made to revive the folk-art, *bhavai*, by the State as a form of popular entertainment. The *bhavai* is one of the important items in the annual drama festival organised by the Gujarat State. Bhojaks or Targalas, Turis and Mirs are the persons who are engaged in Bhavai.

PUBLIC GAMES AND RECREATION

Games provide one of the ways in which people like to pass their leisure time. The purpose of public games is to create leadership, communal life and brotherhood among the people. Students in general play a number of indigenous outdoor games such as *hu-tu-tu* (*Kabaddi*), *kho-kho*, *langadi*, *gilli-danda*, *pakad dav*, *ambli-pipli*, etc., which develop strength, ability and endurance. They are still played both in town and villages but not with the same interest as in the past. The youngsters of rural areas play *gilli-danda*, *pakad dav*, *ambli-pipli*, etc. These games are gradually disappearing in the urban areas as their place is taken by western games, such as cricket, basket-ball, foot-ball, volley-ball, table-tennis, badminton, etc. Facilities for playing modern games are provided in schools, colleges, sports clubs and gymnasiums. When the taluka and district sports are held, a large number of young boys and girls participate in the games very enthusiastically. Among indoor games, the game of carrom has gained popularity among the youngsters while the game of playing cards has gained popularity among the adults in rural areas. In rural areas generally the Indian games are favoured because of their cheapness.

The district has sports clubs and recreation centres, such as the Sports Institute in Sector No. 15, Sachivalaya Gymkhana in Sector No. 21, Community Centre in Sector No. 28 and Asha Talkies in Sector No. 21. There is a Lions Club at Gandhinagar town. Old men and some of the adults rest content with visiting some temples or *ashrams*, either to hear *katha*, *kirtan*, *bhajan* or religious discourses or have *darshan* of the deity.

For the adults, *bhajan mandalis* and *ras mandlis* provide rest and recreation at night, when males assemble at the village *chora* or at any public place in the village and pass their time in singing devotional songs, *bhajans* and *kirtans*. The *garbas* are organised by the *mahila mandals* for the young ladies; while the small girls play the game of *kuka* or *kodio*. Community Development programme for the rural welfare has sustained

and revived the old forms, which are still popular with the people at large. Few centres of activities such as the youth clubs and the *Mahila mandals* occasionally provide entertainment along with constructive activities connected with rural welfare.

CALENDAR

Hindu Calendar

The people in general in this district follow the Vikram Samvat (Era) which precedes the Christian Era by fifty-six years. The year begins with the month of Kartik and is divided into three seasons, namely, the winter consisting of the months of Kartik, Margashirsh, Paush and Magha, the summer extending over the months of Phalgun, Chaitra, Vaishakha and Jyeshtha and the monsoon over the months of Ashadhb, Shravan, Bhadrapad and Ashvin. Each month is divided into two fortnights, the *shukla paksha*, the bright fortnight, when the moon is waxing and the *krishna paksha*, the dark fortnight when the moon is waning. Dates are reckoned by the day of the fortnight of each month.

Jain Calendar

The Jains specially follow Vir (*nirvan*) Samvatsara which commenced in 527 B.C., from the day, when Mahavir, the last of the twenty-four Jain Tirthankars, attained *nirvan* for the observance of their religious practices and events.

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Muslim Calendar

The Muslims in the district follow the Vikram Era for accounting and commercial purposes. For their religious and social purposes, they, however, follow the Hijri Era. The Hirji Era is Arabic in origin. It came into being from 15th July, 622 A.D., in the 42nd year of the life of Prophet Mohammed to commemorate his migration (*hijrat*) from Mecca to Madina. A year according to this era is divided into the following twelve months :

1. Muharram, 2. Safar, 3. Rabi-ul-Awwal, 4. Rabi-us-sani, 5. Jamadi-ul-Awwal, 6. Jamadi-us-Sani, 7. Rajab, 8. Shaaban, 9. Ramzan, 10. Shawwal, 11. Zilqaad and 12. Zilhijja.

FESTIVALS

Festivals as they are celebrated in this country symbolise people's cultural, social and religious aspirations which, besides, helping them to lead

a fuller and better life, also mitigate its monotony by providing physical diversion and mental recreation. Though principally associated with religion, there are a number of occasions wherein the social aspect assumes prominence. In fact, festivals are special days, periods of time and season, which are so designed as to ensure individual joy by practising religion coupled with joy and domestic happiness. They are primarily connected with religious days and agricultural operations.

Hindu Festivals

The Hindus have a number of festivals all the year round. The principal festivals which are observed by almost all the castes and classes in the district include the Diwali and the New Year's Day, Makara Sankranti, Holi, Balev, Navratri and Dassera, besides Mahashivratri, Ram Navami and Janmashtami, which are mainly observed by the followers of the respective sects. There are a number of other festivals such as Bhai-Bij, Dev Divali, Vasant Panchami, Nag Panchami, Rushi Panchami, Shitla Satam, Ganesh Chaturthi, etc., which are also popular in the district. The Akhatrij or Akshaya Tritiya falling on Vaishakh Sud 3 and the Bhadarvi Amas occuring on the *amavasya* of Shravan have special significance for agriculturists. The Akhatrij is considered auspicious for commencing agricultural operations. The agriculturists perform certain rites before their bullocks and implements and apply *kumkum* and adorn them with flowers. On Bhadarvi Amas, which is considered to be the holiest among *amavasyas*, the farmers worship their bullocks and feed them.

Halotra festival is celebrated when there is sufficient rainfall for sowing operation, people abstain from work put on new clothes and prepare *kansar* and eat it with friends and relatives in their own fields which are situated outside the village. This is peculiar to rural areas only.

Ujani is a festival which is celebrated to show respect and appreciation of the beneficial aspect of the Rain God and has some connection with the worship of Indra, the Lord of Rain. This also is celebrated during the first month of the rainy season.

To the devout Hindus, every *ekadashi* is a sacred festival to be celebrated by observing fast and performing *kirtan*. Of all the *ekadashis*, those falling on Kartik Sud 11 (Dev-Uthi or Prabodhini Ekadashi) and Ashadh Sud II (Dev-Podhi Ekadashi) are specially sacred. There are certain religious festivals, which have special significance for ladies. These include Aluna Vrata, during the month of Chaitra, when women take *aluna* or saltless diet, the Vat-Savitri Purnima (Jyeshta Sud 15) when married women worship a banyan tree and keep awake the whole night for nuptial bliss and long life for their husbands, the Gauri Vrata or Jaya-Parvati Vrata observed for

five days from Ashad Sud 11 to 15, both by married women and unmarried girls in dedication to the worship of goddess Gauri or Parvati, and Divaso (falling on the last day of Ashadh), when the Hindu women observe fast and keep awake the whole night to please goddess Parvati for marital bliss. The Randhan Chhath (Shravan Vad 6) is an important day for ladies, which is devoted to cooking food for the day following sacred to the Shitla Mata. As the goddess Shitla is supposed to move about among the hearths, artificial heat by kindling the fire, in the oven or hearth is, therefore, eschewed on that day for fear of annoying the goddess. In the morning of Shitla Satam, the lady of the house worships the goddess under a *pipal* tree (*ficus religiosa*), where-after the food cooked on the previous day is offered by the members of the household. Worship of Shitla and Nag (King Kobra) reveal the non-aryan influence on Hindu religion.

Jain Festivals

The Jain festivals are generally associated with severe austerities, fasting and worship. The devotee is required to avoid, in addition to roots and tubers, which are prohibited on ordinary days, leafy vegetables, dry fruits, tasty food preparations, milk and curd and in some cases even water, when severe austerities and penance are enjoined.

The principal Jain festivals are the Paryushana, the Oli (Siddhachakra Puja), the Kartik Purnima and the Mahavir Jayanti.

Muslim Festivals

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The two sects of the Muslims, Sunnis and Shias, have different holidays except Muharram, Ramzan, Id-E-Milad and Baqr-Id festivals which are common to both. In the beginning of the year comes the month of Muharram, which is held by Shias in special veneration as being the month in which Imam Hussain the son of Ali was killed.

The thirteenth of Safar is known as Tera Tazi or Talan Tezi and kept by Sunnis to commemorate the Prophet's recovery from a severe sickness. Another important day is the twelfth of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the Wafat or day of the Prophet's death. This day is called Id-e-Milad, as it is also the day of the birth of the Prophet. The gyarvi festivals falls on the eleventh day of Rabi-us-Sani on which Sunnis celebrate the birth of Saiyad Abdul Kadir Jilani by illuminating their houses and eating *malidah* (powder sugar bread) at night. On the first eleven nights of Rabi-ul-Awwal in honour of Prophets' birth, *waazes* (sermons) are delivered, a large number of people attend them and on the eleventh day, religious minded people give a morsel of sacred food called *taburruk* to every one present. The Shab-e-Barat is characterised by the preparation of special dishes, which are distributed to the

poor after the recitation of *fatiha* (opening chapter of the Quran) and by feasting of friends and relations. Greater than this festival is the Id-Ul-Fitr commonly known as Ramzan Id which falls on the first day of Shawwal. Muslims Sunnis and Shias of all ages and both sexes take bath, put on new clothes, apply perfumes, go to the mosque, and thereafter, meet friends and relations and bid them good luck and god-speed on this day. On this day the Id-e-Baqr falls on the tenth day of Zilhijja and is characterised, like Ramzan Id, by prayers in mosques. The eighteenth of Zilhijja is a great Shahi holiday known as Id-e-Ghadir or the lake holiday. On third day, the Prophet seated by a lake proclaimed in a joyous moment that Ali was his own flesh and blood. Shias also observe the twenty-eighth of Zilhijja as a festival of three days in memory of Baba Shuja-ud-din a fire worshipping convert to Islam.

PILGRIM PLACES

In this district Chandkheda, Rupal and Vasan are well-known places of pilgrimage for the Hindus. Among these places Chandkheda is famous for a well-known temple made out of glass and dedicated to goddess Ambaji. There is also a temple of Brahmani Mata where a fair is held on Ashvin Sud 14. It is also a picnic place visited by a large number of persons on holidays. The village Rupal is famous for the ancient temple of Vardayini Mata where a large fair known as Rupalni-Palli is held during the Nav-ratri festival. The village Vasan is known for the temple of Vaijnath Mahadev where a large fair is held and is visited by many people from the surrounding villages.

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FAIRS

Fairs are generally associated with deities, religious rituals and agricultural seasons. According to 1971 Census, about 12 fairs are held in the district. The congregation at these fairs varies according to the season and exigencies of agricultural operations.

Because of religious, social, historical and numerical importance, some of the fairs are worthy of note. During the fairs, besides the usual religious practices of having a dip in the holy waters of the river and reverence to the deity, cultural activities such as film shows, exhibitions, etc., are also organised by the Taluka Panchayats.

The details of all the fairs held in this district are given in the following statement.

STATEMENT III.11

Fairs, Their Occasion, Site, Time And Other Particulars

| Sl. No. | Village/Place where held | Name/occasion of fair or festival | Date of fair/festival | Estimated Congre- gation/Number of participants |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Koba | Gandhi fair | Magh Vad 14 (February) | 500—1,000 |
| 2. | Prantiya | Balareshwar Pir Urs. | Rajab 1½ | 800 |
| 3. | Dabroda | Hanumanji fair, Jamnashrami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 600 |
| 4. | Prantiya | Jamnashrami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 600 |
| 5. | Dholera Vasana | Boriya Mahadev fair, Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 400 |
| 6. | Uthata | Dasharath Mahadev fair | Ashvin Sud 15 (October) | 400 |
| 7. | Alampur | Ambaji Mata fair | Ashvin Sud 5 (October) | 200 |
| 8. | Mahudara | Ramji fair, Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 200 |
| 9. | Rupal | Vardayini Mata Palli fair | Ashvin Sud 9 (October) | 25,000—30,000 |
| 10. | Vasan | Jamnashrami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 8,000 |
| 11. | Randheja | Gaba fair | Ashvin Sud 14 (October) | 7,000 |
| 12. | Pandesan | Dholeswer Mahadev fair, Mahashivratri | Magh Vad 14 (February) | 200 |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I, p. 30.

In this district the following fairs are important and have greater social significance :

The Vardayini Mata Palli Fair at Rupal—Rupal has its own importance for a unique celebration of the festival of Palli during the Navratri festival. A fair is also held in reverence to the Vardayini Mata on Ashvin Sud 9 commonly known as Palli fair. The river Sabarmati flows at a distance of 6 km. from this place. Sonipur is a suburb of the village Rupal. It is also linked with Kalol, Mahesana, Pethapur, Gandhinagar and other important towns of the district by State Transport buses. Special buses ply on the day of the fair from these places as also from Ahmadabad and a special train also runs from Ahmadabad to Sonipur via, Kalol to cope with the heavy rush of pilgrims. The fair known as Palli fair, is held in the vast open ground on the left side of the temple. Nearly 30,000 people congregate every year on this occasion. People come by various means of communications such as train, buses, scooters, horses, camels and donkeys. They belong to all the castes and come from all over Gujarat and even from outside the State. Necessary arrangements as regards their lodging and boarding are voluntarily made by the inhabitants of the village at their homes. The unique features of this festival is the hospitality of the local people. They receive pilgrims with pride and pleasure, even though they may be quite unknown to them.

From the early morning of the bright ninth of Ashvin, the whole village shows enthusiasm for the celebration of the Palli festival. The word *Palli* is derived from the words *panch bali* or five oblations. *Palli* is a wooden structure in the shape of a chariot of the goddess without wheels. It is noteworthy that all sections of the people irrespective of casts or creed give voluntary services in the making of *Palli*. The image of the goddess is taken round the village in a procession and this is indeed unique in Gujarat. The fairs starts from the morning and ends at midnight to enable the assemblage to partake in the palli procession and worship the goddess at *Mahapuja*. There are merry-go-rounds, giant wheels, etc., for recreation. The fair is organised by the gram panchayat.

The Gandhi Fair at Koba—This fair is held on Magh Vad 14 at the village Koba of this district. It is held since the establishment of Kasturba Smarak Gram Sevika Training Centre about 7 years ago. About 500 to 1,000 persons from the surrounding villages participate in the fair. The Patidars, Thakardas and Ravalias are the main casts among the participants. The entertainment programme is performed and the discourses on social reforms are held by the social workers during the fair. The fair is organised by the Kasturba Smarak Trust.

1. Census of India 1961, Gujarat, Vol. V, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, 1965,
pp. 275-279.

NEW TRENDS

The winds of change are blowing all round under the impact of the Five Year Plans. The pattern in dress, ornaments, social customs, food and other habits of the people, their mode of living, the religious beliefs and practices have undergone considerable changes. The impact of the cinema is far-reaching. With the diversification of occupations and spread of education, the social barriers are gradually breaking down the rigidity and the caste system has lost its former rigours. As a result, cases of inter-caste and inter-provincial marriages have increased and the entire society has become sociable except in a few cases where untouchability persists particularly in the rural areas. The social legislation for abolition of untouchability has made some impact on the rural population. The extension of general and technical education has opened up new vistas of employment on account of the schemes undertaken under the Five Year Plans. Women have shed their shyness and have secured place alongwith males in the Government offices, public undertakings, private business organisations, educational and social institutions. They have shown their competence in various fields and as such, they are not confined to the hearth and home as before. By and large, the people have become politically conscious and take intense interest in the elections whether they are of the Panchayats, the State Legislature or of the Parliament. With the increase in the prices of agricultural produce, the purchasing power of agriculturists has increased tremendously with the result that they spend lavishly on social occasions. With the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the farmers have acquired political power to reckon with as vote-banks both at the State level and the district level.

After Independence, the entire landscape of agricultural economy has changed under the impact of the Five Year Plans. Government has provided financial and technical assistance in the form of agricultural tools and techniques. The land reform measures cover abolition of intermediaries such as Talukadars, Jagirdars, Inamdaras, Watandars and Ankadedars, etc. The tenancy reforms provide for security of tenure, regulation of rent and transfer of ownership to tenants. The consolidation of holdings and imposition of ceiling on land-holdings have cut down tall poppies in the district. The concept of private ownership has given the cultivators incentive for investment of capital and labour in the lands under their cultivation. After implementation of land reforms, a few persons remain as landless agricultural labourers. After acquisition of occupancy rights, cultivators are now able to procure loans from banks, Government, etc., for improvement of their lands and crops. Thus, now the cultivators are in a position to make the maximum use of their land and to grow cash crops like cotton, groundnut, vegetables, etc. Most of them are also taking two or three crops during a year.

Under the Five Year Plans, education has spread, roads have been constructed, and small-scale industries are coming up, providing greater employment to the people. The improved condition has also resulted in the elevation of the standard of living. The increase in the means of transport and communications has facilitated migration from villages to towns and cities. The entire economy of the district has been thus undergoing quick transformation as a result of concentrated efforts which the State and the people have made in various fields of activities.

To sum up the society which was static under the British and Baroda regimes before merger is in a process of continuous change on account of the impact of the development programmes under the Five Year Plans. The transition from tradition to modernity is not complete. With the introduction of new tools and techniques of agriculture and small-scale industries by Government, the employment opportunities have increased and the people have acquired more purchasing power. This change is reflected in their levels of living. Some of them now use all modern gimmicks such as motorcycles, radios, motor-cars, tractors, terelyne clothes, better food, well-built and well-furnished houses. On the whole, the people have a better standard of living consequent upon improvement in their economic conditions.





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STATEMENT III.12

Census Houses and the Uses to which They are put , 1971

| State/District | Total Rural Urban | Total number of Census Houses | Census Houses vacant at the time of House- listing | Occupied Census Houses used as | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | Residence | Shop-cum- residence | Workshop-cum- residence in- cluding House- hold Industry | Non- residence | Others |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Gujarat State | T R U | 6,589,980 4,723,105 1,866,875 | 676,115 467,455 208,660 | 4,382,385 3,116,050 1,266,335 | 38,205 30,265 7,940 | 76,720 54,930 21,790 | 436,865 311,725 225,140 | 979,690 842,680 137,010 |
| Gandhinagar District | T R U | 55,795 49,005 6,790 | 11,511 6,945 4,545 | 35,380 33,440 1,920 | 150 140 10 | 215 215 .. | 2,685 2,515 170 | 5,875 5,730 145 |

Source : Census of India 1971, Gujarat, Series 3, Part IV-A & R, Housing Report, Housing Tables and Subsidiary Tables, pp. 102-108.

STATEMENT III.13
Distribution of Census Houses by Predominant Material of Wall and Predominant Material of Roof, 1971

| State/ District | Total Rural Urban | Total num- ber of Census Houses | Predominant material of wall | | | | | | | | | | All other material and materials not stated |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | Grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo | Mud | Unburnt bricks | Wood | Burnt bricks | G.I. Sheets or other metal sheets | Stone | Cement concrete | All other material and materials not stated | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | |
| Gujarat State | T | 6,559,980 | 573,910 | 2,022,730 | 171,725 | 76,245 | 2,347,365 | 38,965 | 1,320,455 | 28,970 | 9,615 | | |
| | R | 4,223,105 | 528,125 | 1,878,510 | 127,790 | 33,480 | 1,206,230 | 13,405 | 920,945 | 9,915 | 4,345 | | |
| | U | 1,866,875 | 45,485 | 144,160 | 43,935 | 42,765 | 1,141,135 | 25,560 | 399,510 | 19,055 | 5,270 | | |
| Gandhinagar District | T | 55,795 | 470 | 20,240 | 535 | 140 | 33,895 | 145 | 30 | 100 | 240 | | |
| | R | 49,005 | 395 | 19,385 | 505 | 130 | 28,335 | 90 | 30 | 85 | 50 | | |
| | U | 6,790 | 75 | 855 | 30 | 10 | 5,560 | 55 | .. | 15 | 190 | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| State/District | Total Rural Urban | | Predominant material of roof | | | | | | | | | | All other material and materials not stated |
| | | | Grass, leaves, reeds, thatch, wood, mud, unburnt bricks or bamboo | Tiles, slate, shingle | Corrugated iron, zinc or other metal sheets | Asbestos cement sheets | Brick and lime | Stone | Concrete R.B.C./R.C.C. | R.B.C./R.C.C. | All other material and materials not stated | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 20 | | |
| Gujarat State | T | 401,800 | 4,041,850 | 1,322,840 | 111,845 | 10,600 | 112,155 | 578,455 | 10,435 | | | | |
| | R | 296,965 | 3,352,050 | 796,500 | 53,785 | 4,440 | 28,565 | 157,260 | 3,840 | | | | |
| | U | 104,835 | 659,890 | 526,340 | 58,060 | 6,460 | 83,590 | 421,195 | 6,595 | | | | |
| Gandhinagar District | T | 615 | 24,825 | 21,940 | 415 | 55 | 75 | 7,615 | 255 | | | | |
| | R | 500 | 24,060 | 21,480 | 375 | 40 | 15 | 2,410 | 65 | | | | |
| | U | 115 | 765 | 460 | 40 | .. | .. | 5,205 | 190 | | | | |

Source : Census of India 1971, Gujarat, Series 6, Part IV.A & B, Housing Report, Housing Tables and Subsidary Tables, pp. 108-109.

STATEMENT III.14

Households Classified by Number of Members and by Number of Rooms Occupied, 1971

| State/District | Total Rural Urban | Total No of census households | Total No of Members | | Total No. of rooms | No. of households | Households with one room | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| | | | Males | Females | | | No. of households | No. of members | | |
| | | | 2 | 3 | | | 4 | 5 | | |
| Gujarat State | | | | | | | | | | |
| | T | 4,537,140 | 13,428,900 | 12,646,980 | 7,390,340 | 2,675,925 | 7,440,480 | 6,938,550 | | |
| | R | 3,232,985 | 9,632,760 | 9,172,195 | 4,890,960 | 1,995,725 | 5,631,645 | 5,327,540 | | |
| | U | 1,304,155 | 3,796,140 | 3,474,785 | 2,389,380 | 680,200 | 1,808,835 | 1,611,010 | | |
| Gandhinagar District | | | | | | | | | | |
| | T | 35,815 | 92,795 | 88,200 | 63,930 | 14,375 | 34,605 | 32,720 | | |
| | R | 33,875 | 88,305 | 84,140 | 59,485 | 13,905 | 33,555 | 31,960 | | |
| | U | 1,940 | 4,490 | 4,080 | 4,445 | 470 | 1,050 | 760 | | |

| State/District | Total Rural Urban | Households with two rooms | | Households with three rooms | | Households with four rooms | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| | | No. of households | No. of members | No. of households | No. of members | No. of households | No. of members |
| | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat State | | | | | | | |
| | T | 1,286,130 | 3,978,435 | 3,785,170 | 343,025 | 1,139,345 | 1,090,645 |
| | R | 902,865 | 2,926,920 | 2,712,135 | 221,265 | 747,720 | 720,695 |
| | U | 383,235 | 1,151,515 | 1,073,035 | 121,760 | 391,625 | 369,950 |

CHAPTER III—PEOPLE

| State/District | Total Rural Urban | Households with five rooms and above | | | Households with unspecified No. of rooms | | | No. of Households with details unspecified | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|--|----------------|---------|---|--|
| | | No. of house- holds | No. of Members | | No. of house- holds | No. of Members | | | |
| | | | Males | Females | | Males | Females | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| Gujarat State | T | 93,940 | 382,175 | 363,535 | 350 | 885 | 600 | 3,225 | |
| | R | 41,260 | 166,980 | 161,695 | 340 | 875 | 600 | 2,020 | |
| | U | 52,680 | 215,195 | 201,840 | 10 | 10 | .. | 1,205 | |
| Gandhinagar District | T | 210 | 850 | 745 | .. | .. | .. | 100 | |
| | R | 210 | 850 | 745 | .. | .. | .. | 100 | |
| | U | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |

Source :

Census of India 1971, Gujarat, Series 5, Part IV-A and B, Housing Report, Housing Tables and Subsidiary Tables, pp. 114-115.



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PART IV—ECONOMIC ORGANISATION

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

Agriculture plays a prominent part in the economy of this district. It provides employment to 61.40 per cent of the total working population of the district against 65.60 per cent in the State as a whole according to the 1971 Census. Among the working population, cultivators account for 35.58 per cent and agricultural labourers only 25.82 per cent as against 43.12 per cent and 22.48 per cent respectively in the State. From the available data it can be seen that the economy of the district is mainly based on personal cultivation. The following table gives details about the number of persons working as cultivators and agricultural labourers in 1971.

| | | Total | Males | Females |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| As Cultivators | .. | 21,175 | 20,687 | 488 |
| As Agricultural Labourers | .. | 15,367 | 11,921 | 3,446 |
| Total | .. | 36,542 | 32,608 | 3,934 |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar District, Part X-B, p. 7

From the above table it can be seen that of the total number of persons engaged in agriculture, 57.95 per cent were cultivators and 42.05 per cent were agricultural labourers. The females formed a substantial proportion in both the categories.

LAND UTILISATION

The district has a total area of 67,600 hectares, of which 48,800 hectares are under cultivation (1970-71). This forms about 72 per cent of the total area. Of the remaining, the major part consists of permanent pastures and other grazing land, barren and unculturable land and current fallows. The following statement gives detailed particulars of land resources available in the district decennially between 1964-65 and 1970-71.

STATEMENT IV.1**Land Utilisation**

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

| S.I. No. | Classification of Area | 1964-65 | Percentage | 1970-71 | Percentage |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Total reporting area for land utilisation purposes | | | | | |
| 1 | Forests | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 676 | 100.00 | 676 100.00 |
| 2 | Land put to non-agricultural uses | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 | 0.89 | 29 4.29 |
| 3 | Barren and unculturable land | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 51 | 7.54 | 51 7.54 |
| 4 | Permanent pastures and other grazing land | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 63 | 9.32 | 58 8.58 |
| 5 | Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in net area sown | .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. | .. .. .. .. .. .. |  |
| 6 | Culturable waste | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 21 | 3.11 | .. .. .. .. .. .. |
| 7 | Fallow lands other than current fallows | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 6 | 0.89 | 6 0.89 |
| 8 | Current fallows | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 4 | 0.59 | 44 6.51 |
| 9 | Net area sown | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 525 | 77.66 | 488 72.19 |
| 10 | Total cropped area | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 550 | 81.36 | 555 82.10 |
| 11 | Area sown more than once | .. .. .. .. .. .. | 25 | 3.70 | 67 9.91 |

Source :

Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

As the statement indicates, while the net cropped area has declined in terms of percentages, the gross cropped area has increased slightly from 81 to 82 per cent between 1964-65 and 1970-71. This is mainly due to double-cropping which was almost negligible in the past and which is now being practised on a fairly wide scale, as can be seen from the percentage increase in the area sown more than once' from 3.70 to 9.91 during this period. A significant rise (from 0.89 to 4.29 per cent) is recorded under 'land put to non-agricultural uses'. This is because of the rapid constructional activities in the capital of the State and in the surrounding areas where residential quarters are being built by Government and non-Government agencies on a significantly large scale. A similar increase is recorded under 'current fallows.'

IRRIGATION

The district has (1975-76) total irrigated area of 21,200 hectares. Of these, 21,000 hectares are irrigated by wells and tube-wells. The Sabarmati and Khari rivers flow through this district but they are not utilised for irrigation purposes. Thus there is no major irrigation project in the district. The main source of irrigation, therefore, consists of wells and tube-wells.

A scheme for constructing tube-wells was taken up during the First Five Year Plan period when 32 such wells were drilled. The work of drilling 20 more tube-wells was undertaken during the Second Five Year Plan. Two tube-wells (at Vasan and Vadodara) were redrilled during the Third Five Year Plan. Under the 'Rabi Campaign', the work of drilling 11 more tube-wells was taken up during the Fourth Five Year Plan. Thereafter, the work of drilling 7 tube-wells was taken on hand between 1973-74 and 1974-75. There are 263 tube-wells including 69 owned by Government. Besides, there are about 2,670 wells of which 1,012 are electrified.

The area irrigated by Government tube-wells during the last ten years is shown below:

| Year | Irrigation in Hectares | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|----|----|-------|
| 1. 1965-66 | .. | .. | .. | 2,932 |
| 2. 1966-67 | .. | .. | .. | 3,258 |
| 3. 1967-68 | .. | .. | .. | 3,824 |
| 4. 1968-69 | .. | .. | .. | 4,966 |
| 5. 1969-70 | .. | .. | .. | 4,068 |
| 6. 1970-71 | .. | .. | .. | 3,662 |
| 7. 1971-72 | .. | .. | .. | 2,731 |
| 8. 1972-73 | .. | .. | .. | 4,340 |
| 9. 1973-74 | .. | .. | .. | 3,305 |
| 10. 1974-75 | .. | .. | .. | 4,499 |

Irrigation Schemes

As stated earlier, there are no major projects of irrigation in this district. Under the Hathmati Reservoir Scheme, Chhala and Vasna distributory canals have irrigation strength of 7,344 acres and 6,293 acres respectively. However, they have not provided any irrigational facilities due to insufficient rainfall during the last few years. At present, there is a medium irrigation scheme, viz., Raipur weir, which is near Raipur village. The Kharikat canal from this weir does not provide irrigation water to this district, due to insufficient rainfall. It is proposed to construct a barrage near village Indroda. The survey work has been completed. There is a weir at village Fatehwadi of this district, but the canal irrigates the land in the adjoining Ahmadabad district only.

Minor Irrigation Schemes

The minor irrigation schemes include tanks, *bandhara*, check dams, percolation tanks, lift irrigation, wells and tube-wells. The following statement gives details of minor irrigation schemes in the district.

STATEMENT IV.2**Minor Irrigation Schemes, 1974-75**

(AREA IN HECTARES)

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Existing schemes | | Schemes taken on hand | | New schemes proposed | |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Number 3 | Irrigated area 4 | Number 5 | Irrigated area 6 | Number 7 | Irrigated area 8 |
| 1 | Barrage | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. |
| 2 | Tube-wells | 235 | 6,634 | 5 | 303 | 17 | 1,032 |
| 3 | Existing water tanks | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 198 |
| 4 | Drain schemes | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 3,955 |
| 5 | Flood control scheme | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | Total .. | 238 | 6,634 | 5 | 303 | 32 | 5,185 |

Source : Executive Engineer, M.I.P. Division, Ahmadabad,

SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY

The following are the figures of area irrigated by different sources of water supply in the district during 1964-65 and 1970-71.

STATEMENT IV.3**Area Irrigated by Sources**

(AREA IN '00 HECTARES)

| Source 1 | | 1964-65 2 | 1970-71 3 |
|-------------------|----|--------------|--------------|
| Government Canals | .. | .. | .. |
| Tanks | .. | .. | .. |
| Wells | .. | .. | 62 |
| Tube-wells | .. | .. | 42 |
| Other Sources | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total .. | .. | .. | 63 |
| | | | 132 |

Source :

1. *Irrigation in Gujarat*, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad (1974), p. 115.
2. Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

It will appear from the above data that wells constitute the most important source of irrigation.

Irrigated Area

The area under irrigation increased gradually from 6,300 hectares in 1964-65 to 13,200 hectares in 1970-71 and ultimately to 21,200 hectares (1975-76). The non-food or cash crops had only a negligible irrigated area in the district. In 1970-71, of the total irrigated area, 27 per cent was occupied by the non-food crops and the remainder, about 73 per cent, by the food crops. There has been a decline in cultivation of irrigated non-food crops. The following statement gives comparative figures of the irrigated areas of food crops and non-food crops in 1964-65 and 1970-71.

STATEMENT IV.4**Area Under Irrigated Crops**

(IN '00 HECTARES)

| Crops 1 | | 1964-65* 2 | 1970-71† 3 |
|---|----|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Total Food crops</i> | .. | 47 | 104 |
| Rice .. | .. | 4 | 11 |
| Wheat .. | .. | 21 | 39 |
| <i>Bajri</i> .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| <i>Total Cereals</i> | .. | .. | 61 |
| <i>Total Pulses</i> | .. | .. | .. |
| <i>Total Food grains</i> | .. | .. | 61 |
| Potatoes .. | .. | 1 | — |
| Chillies .. | .. | 6 | 14 |
| Other Condiments and spices .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| <i>Total Fruits</i> .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| <i>Total Vegetables</i> | .. | .. | 16 |
| Other Food crops | .. | 15 | .. |
| <i>Total Non-food crops</i> | .. | 13 | 28 |
| Cotton .. | .. | 9 | 18 |
| Tobacco .. | .. | 6 | 3 |
| Fodder crops .. | .. | 1 | 3 |
| Other Non-food crops .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Total area under irrigated crops | .. | 63 | 132 |

*Source:** *Irrigation in Gujarat*, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad, (1974), pp. 63-64.

† Director of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

SOILS

The soil of this district is sandy to sandy loam and of *goradu* type. It retains moisture to some extent. In the areas near Pethapur, Kolavada and Vavol, it gradually varies from sandy to sandy clay loam and sandy loam. The soil in this district is good for horticulture and there is a fairly good growth of fruit and other trees in this area.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Water and wind are very active forces in erosion of land. Denudation of forest areas due to ruthless cutting and over-grazing has led to soil erosion. Systematic execution of soil conservation schemes to arrest soil erosion is, therefore, of vital importance for increased agricultural production. Various schemes of soil conservation including contour-bunding and Kotar reclamation have been undertaken in the district. The soil conservation activities are undertaken by the Department of Agriculture with a view to preserving moisture and fertility of the land, which ultimately result in increased agricultural production.

Contour-bunding was done in 26 hectares of land in the district during 1973-74. Similarly, 65 hectares of land was covered under Kotar reclamation between 1973 and 1975. The amount spent on such works is recovered from the owner of the land by instalments after deducting subsidy as per Government orders in force.

CROPPING PATTERN

The total geographical area of this district is 65,116 hectares of which 51,160 hectares (78.57 per cent) are under cultivation. Of the cultivated area, 60 per cent grows food crops among which *bajri*, *jowar*, wheat and vegetable crops are important. Cotton is the main non-food crop. *Bajri*, *jowar*, paddy and *kodra* are known as Kharif crops as they are rainfed crops. Among them, paddy requires additional waterings at regular intervals.

The following statement shows the area under principal crops for the period between 1964-65 and 1973-74.

STATEMENT IV.5
Area Under Principal Crops

(IN '00 HECTARES)

| Sl. No. | Crops | 1964-65* | 1973-74† |
|------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Rice | .. | .. |
| 2. | <i>Jowar</i> | .. | 68 |
| 3. | <i>Bajri</i> | .. | 183 |
| 4. | Wheat | .. | 21 |
| | <i>Total Cereals</i> | .. | 281 |
| 5. | Tur | .. | 10 |
| 6. | Other Pulses | .. | .. |
| | <i>Total Pulses</i> | .. | 34 |
| | <i>Total Food Crops</i> | .. | 313 |
| 7. | Chillies | .. | .. |
| 8. | Potatoes | .. | 1 |
| 9. | Groundnut | .. | 54 |
| 10. | Sesamum | .. | 4 |
| 11. | Castor | .. | 6 |
| | <i>Total Oilseeds</i> | .. | 65 |
| 12. | Cotton | .. | 96 |
| 13. | Tobacco | .. | 7 |
| | | | 1 |

Source :

* District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar District, p. 15.

† Based on the final forecast data, issued by the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat, Ahmadabad.

The statement shows that in respect of individual crops, wheat and *jowar* have registered a significant increase while the area under *bajri* has slightly declined during the decade. The area under cereals has on the whole increased. The most significant rise has been registered in respect of cotton, wherein the area has increased more than two-fold between 1964-65 and 1973-74.

OUT-TURN OF CROPS

To maintain the level of agricultural production, systematic efforts are required. These include the development of irrigation facilities, provision of

improved seeds, timely supply of fertilizers and pesticides, use of improved implements and timely credit and extension services.

The following statement gives details about the out-turn of principal crops in the district between 1964-65 and 1973-74.

STATEMENT IV.6

Out-turn of Principal Crops

(IN '000 TONNES)

| Sl. No. 1 | Crops 2 | | 1964-65* | 1973-74† |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----|----------|----------|
| | | | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Rice | .. | 10 | 5 |
| 2. | Jowar | .. | 17 | 41 |
| 3. | Bajri | .. | 115 | 106 |
| 4. | Wheat | .. | 12 | 113 |
| | <i>Total Cereals</i> | .. | 156 | 259 |
| 5. | Tur | .. | 2 | 10 |
| 6. | Other Pulses | .. | .. | 4 |
| | <i>Total Pulses</i> | .. | 5 | 14 |
| | <i>Total Food Crops</i> | .. | .. | 273 |
| 7. | Chillies | .. | .. | 3 |
| 8. | Potatoes | .. | 16 | 17 |
| 9. | Groundnut | .. | 26 | 13 |
| 10. | Sesamum | .. | 1 | 1 |
| 11. | Castor | .. | 3 | 12 |
| | <i>Total Oilseeds</i> | .. | 30 | 26 |
| 12. | Cotton | .. | 77 | 256 |
| 13. | Tobacco | .. | 6 | 1 |

NOTE : Out-turn of cotton is recorded in terms of bales of 180 kg. each.

Source :

* District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar District, p. 15.

† Based on the final forecast data, issued by the Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The principal crops which have registered rise in their out-turn are *jowar* and wheat. This is due to the corresponding increase in the area covered by these crops. The out-turn of pulses doubled between 1964-65 and

1973-74. This increase is proportionately higher than the corresponding increase in area under pulses. This fact indicates the intensive cultivation of crops. The out-turn of cotton increased from 7,700 bales in 1964-65 to 25,600 bales in 1973-74. Oilseeds, especially groundnut registered a fall in production due to a corresponding fall in area under cultivation.

The yield per hectare of the principal crops during 1973-74 is shown in the following statement.

STATEMENT IV.7

Yield per Hectare, 1973-74

(FIGURES IN KG.)

| Name of crop 1 | District | | State 3 |
|-------------------|----------|-------|------------|
| | 2 | 3 | |
| Bajri | 678 | 719 | |
| Maize | .. | 749 | |
| Kodra | .. | 801 | |
| Wheat | 2,686 | 2,159 | |
| Jowar Kharif | 101 | 355 | |
| Jowar Rabi | .. | 893 | |
| Other Cereals | .. | 663 | |
| Total Cereals | 827 | 876 | |
| Tur | 526 | 439 | |
| Other Pulses | 121 | 260 | |
| Total Pulses | 269 | 393 | |
| Total Food Crops | 748 | 778 | |
| Sugarcane | .. | 5,016 | |
| Chillies | 375 | 621 | |
| Groundnut | 900 | 785 | |
| Sesamum | .. | 299 | |
| Total Oilseeds | 765 | 757 | |
| Cotton | 302 | 156 | |
| Tobacco | .. | 1,446 | |

Source :

Based on the final forecast data, issued by the Directorate of Agriculture, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

MODE OF CULTIVATION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS

Bajri (Pennisetum Typhoideum)

Bajri is an important crop occupying the largest area under food crops. In 1972-73, it covered 20,800 hectares or about 34.8 per cent of the total cropped area in the district. It is chiefly cultivated on sandy *goradu* to medium black soils. *Bajri* is sown in June and July and harvested in October and November. In the methods of cultivation the primary operation is preparatory tillage done by an improved agricultural implement known as Gandhi Allen Hoe locally called as *Khappa*. This is generally done by the end of May, just before the on-set of monsoon followed by removal of plant residues of the previous crop. With the first good rain, the sowing is done by a local implement known as *Dantali* keeping a distance of 30 cm. between the two rows. After sowing, generally two hand weeding and two to three interculturings are done with the help of '*Karabadi*'. In recent years, increasing use is made of improved seeds and fertilizers. Plant protection measures against pests and diseases are also employed. The crop is generally ready for harvest by the first fortnight of October, if the normal rains are received by the end of June. The harvested crop is kept in fields for 10 to 15 days during which the earheads are removed and the bundles are tied and heaped. The earheads are then transported to the threshing yard where they are threshed under bullock's feet or by a tractor. The threshed material is winnowed and the grains are separated. The cultivators generally reserve their yearly requirement and the rest is disposed of in open market.

As a result of the improved dry farming methods adopted recently, the yield per hectare of hybrid *bajri* has increased considerably. In fact, Gandhinagar had the highest yield per hectare in *bajri* in Gujarat during 1971-72.

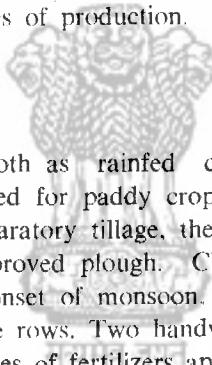
Jowar (Andropogon Sorghum)

Jowar is another important cereal crop grown all over the district. It is grown both in Kharif and Rabi seasons. The field is prepared during July. Sowing operations start in the first fortnight of August. Usually two or three interculturings after a month of sowing are required. Flowering and grain formation start in the last week of September and harvesting takes place generally from the middle of October and continues till November. The crop is cut by a sickle and exposed to the sun for about three days. The earheads are cut and carried to the harvesting floor where they are crushed under bullock's feet. *Jowar* was grown in 6,800 hectares in 1964-65 and 7,200 hectares in 1973-74.

*Wheat (*Triticum Spp.*)*

Wheat is a Rabi crop grown in sandy loam soils. For the cultivation of wheat, land is prepared for the crop in September-October. Manuring is done at the rate of about 25 cartloads per hectare before ploughing. Sowing starts and continues till the last week of November. Interculturings are generally given when the crop is an irrigated one. The irrigated crop is given top-dressing in the form of manure-mixture one month after the sowing. Earheads appear in January and harvesting starts in March and continues till April.

Area under wheat increased from 2,100 hectares in 1964-65 to 5,500 hectares in 1973-74. Its production during this period increased nearly ten-fold from 1,200 tonnes to 11,300 tonnes. These figures show that the production of wheat has increased much more during recent years mainly due to improved techniques of production.

*Paddy (*Oryza-Sativa*)*


Paddy is grown both as rainfed crop and also as an irrigated crop. The fields earmarked for paddy crops are generally situated in low lying areas and as a preparatory tillage, the lands are ploughed either by country plough or by improved plough. Clods are broken by "Samar", a heavy leveller. With the onset of monsoon, the paddy is drilled at 30 cm. to 40 cm. apart within the rows. Two handweedings and interculturings are done followed by split doses of fertilizers applied to harvest the high yields. The seed rate is generally 40 kilograms per hectare. The seed is treated with seed dresser as a preventive measure against seed disease. Plant protection measures are adopted during the course of cultivation. Rainfed paddy matures early and is harvested by middle of October. The harvested crop is bundled and threshed in the fields and grains transported and stored in dry cool place. Graded grains are kept for the following year for seed purposes and the rest is disposed of in the open market.

Seedlings of irrigated paddy are raised in beds by sowing the seeds at the onset of monsoon. Kyari lands are puddled in the standing water when a basic doze of fertilizers is applied. The transplanting of seedlings is generally carried out in July-August when the rains are heavy and conditions are favourable. Before the seedlings are transplanted, they are treated with seed dressers to avoid occurrence of plant diseases. The manurial dozes and waterings are given when necessary. The crop is generally hand-weeded twice in a season. Since these varieties are late maturing varieties, they are harvested by the end of November or in the first fortnight of December. The harvested

paddy is threshed in the fields and grains are transported and stored in dry places. The hay is stocked as fodder, if required, or is disposed of to the paper industry.

*Groundnut (*Arachis Hypogaea*)*

Groundnut is an important oil seed crop of the district. The main varieties cultivated here are spreading one known as Samarala and the erect one known as Junagadh-11.

Preparatory tillage of two harrowings and levelling of land by plank known as 'Samar' is carried out by the month of May. After the first rainfall, when conditions are favourable for germination, sowing operation is carried by seed-drill keeping a distance of 60 cm. to 75 cm. between the two rows. Generally 12 kg. of nitrogen and 40 kg. of fertilizers are the basic requirements of the crop. Harvesting of crops is carried out by the middle of October or in early November.

Groundnut covered an area of 1,500 hectares forming nearly 2.5 per cent of the total cultivated area of the district.

*Cotton (*Gossypium Herbaceum*)*

Cotton is another important cash crop of the district. Both the short staple and long staple cotton varieties are under cultivation. Its sowing starts in July and flowers come up by the end of November. Picking of seed cotton starts in February and lasts till April. It is thereafter carted to the ginning factories for ginning. The out-turn of cotton has improved both quantitatively and qualitatively in recent years.

The district can be divided into two distinct zones-north of Sabarmati as Kalyan zone and south of Sabarmati as Digvijay zone.

Cotton cultivated in the past was of a poor quality. Superior varieties like Indo-American variety 134 Co² were released for general cultivation during the First Five Year Plan. These varieties showed encouraging performance and were popular amongst the cultivators. The new varieties, Gujarat-67 and Hybrid-4 have replaced the above said varieties, while V-797 has replaced Kalyan Cotton.

From the study of the past figures it can be observed that both the area and out-turn of cotton have increased gradually. The area under cotton increased two-fold between 1964-65 and 1973-74, while its out-turn during this period increased more than three times. These figures explain the growing importance of improved cultivation in cotton.

The crop is harvested in February or March and gives an average yield of 300 kg. per hectare. In 1972-73, an area of 12,700 hectares or 22.3 per cent of the total cropped area was under cotton.

CROP ROTATION

After the introduction of high-yielding and hybrid varieties of crops, the farmers grow multiple crops in the areas where irrigation facilities are available.

The rotation of crops followed in this district is mainly as under.

1. Kharif *bajri*-vegetables or summer *bajri*.
2. Cotton-cotton or *bajri*.

CROP CALENDAR

The calendar of sowing and harvesting operations of the main crops in the district is as under:

| Sl. No. 1 | Crops 2 | Sowing period | | Harvesting period 4 |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|--|------------------------|
| | | 3 | | |
| 1. | Bajri .. | June-July | | October-November |
| 2. | Paddy .. | June-July | | November-December |
| 3. | Wheat .. | October—November | | February-March |
| 4. | Jowar .. | July-August | | October-November |
| 5. | Groundnut .. | June-July | | October-November |
| 6. | Cotton .. | June-July | | March-April. |

Source : District Agricultural Officer, Gandhinagar.

PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

Agricultural production can be increased either by extensive cultivation or by adopting intensive cultivation. Extensive cultivation is possible by bringing larger areas under cultivation by reclaiming waste lands, *kotar* bunding, etc. Intensive cultivation consists of applying modern agronomic practices, use of improved seeds and implements, adoption of plant protection measures, etc. Except the capital town, this district is mainly an agricultural area. As such, adequate and timely supply of inputs to the farmers for agricultural production is very important. To educate people in methods of scientific agriculture, the Government proposes to set up a State Agriculture Museum at Gandhinagar.¹

1. *Draft Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79)*, 1973, p. 83.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

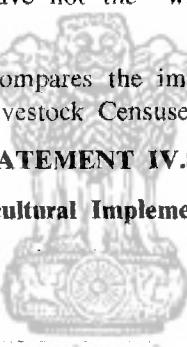
The agricultural implements in use in the district are mostly traditional as they are easily made and repaired and constructed out of material readily available from local areas. For agricultural operations like ploughing, harrowing and interculturing local indigenous implements are used as in the past. However, under the impact of the Five Year Plans, cultivators have now started using improved implements like iron ploughs, seed drills, harrows, etc. The use of tractors for ploughing is also on increase. Oil-engines and electric motor pumps unknown in the past are now installed at a larger number of places.

Government provides financial assistance to cultivators for purchase of improved implements so as to stimulate agricultural production. The main object of the scheme was to popularise the use of improved implements amongst small holders who have not the wherewithal to purchase such implements.

The following statement compares the important implements in use in the district according to the Livestock Censuses of 1966 and 1972.

STATEMENT IV.8

Agricultural Implements

| Sl. No. 1 | Name of the implements 2 |  સરયમેન્દ્ર જાપન | Agricultural Implements | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------|
| | | | 1966* | 1972† |
| | | 3 | 4 | |
| 1. | Ploughs .. | 10,539 | 10,759 | |
| | (i) Wooden | 8,238 | 8,002 | |
| | (ii) Iron | 2,303 | 2,757 | |
| 2. | Carts .. | 3,696 | 3,986 | |
| 3. | Sugarcane crushers .. | 18 | 76 | |
| | (i) Power | 14 | 6 | |
| | (ii) Bullocks | 4 | 70 | |
| 4. | Oil-engines .. | 1,054 | 1,310 | |
| 5. | Electric pumps .. | 233 | 864 | |
| 6. | Tractors .. | 43 | 193 | |
| 7. | Oil Ghani's .. | 26 | 1 | |
| 8. | Pension wheels or Rabats .. | 38 | 11 | |

Source :

* District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar District., p. 47.

† Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar.

It will appear from the statement that the use of improved implements has increased steadily and considerably under the impact of the Five Year Plans. The most remarkable progress has been registered in case of tractors. Their number has increased four times between 1966 and 1972. Almost similar increase has been recorded in case of sugarcane crushers and electric pumps. The iron ploughs have increased by 20 per cent. Oil-engines have increased by 24 per cent. On the other hand, the number of oil-Ghanis and Persian wheels has gone down for obvious reasons. The oil-mills have replaced ghanis while electric pumps have rendered rahats almost out of date. The increasing investment in the agricultural implements and machinery is indicative of the progress in agrarian sector owing to the liberal assistance given to farmers by the Government and the impact of development programme.

SEED SUPPLY

Development of agriculture depends to a great extent on agricultural inputs of which seeds form the most important part. Generally improved seeds give better yield to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent. Since this is a newly created district, there are no research stations at this stage.

However, a farm information centre named as the Sardar Patel Agricultural Museum-cum-Farm Information Centre has been established in 1975 at Randheja, 5 km. from Gandhinagar. Managed by the Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmadabad, it is a unique centre conducting agricultural courses for farmers. The duration of the course is 15 to 20 days. 50 Australian cows would be kept at the centre. The centre would help farmers to increase farm production in the area.

The following figures indicate the area covered under improved seeds:

STATEMENT IV.9

Area Covered Under Improved Seeds

(IN HECTARES)

| Sl. No. | Name of Crop | (In Hectares) | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| | | 1971-72 | 1972-73 | 1973-74 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Cotton | 12,096 | 6,380 | 7,251 |
| 2 | Bajri | 9,925 | 12,283 | 7,597 |
| 3 | Paddy | 80 | 28 | 116 |
| 4 | Wheat | 1,597 | 3,388 | 5,933 |
| | Groundnut | .. | 86 | 42 |
| 6 | Castor | .. | 364 | 426 |

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Gandhinagar.

The Agriculture Department has launched a scheme for establishment of taluka seed multiplication farms in each district. These farms undertake multiplication of seeds as per local requirements. There is no seed multiplication farm in the district. The farmers obtain their requirements of seeds from the farms at Dahegam, Viramgam and Miroli (Ahmadabad district) as well as from the registered seed dealers and progressive farmers. Several farmers themselves produce seeds for their requirements. Most of the agricultural co-operative societies in the district also have licences to sell fertilizers. Hybrid seeds of *bajri*, wheat, *jowar*, cotton and groundnut are being increasingly used.

FERTILIZERS

One of the principal requirements for increased agricultural production is the supply of fertilizers and manures which play a vital role in increasing fertility of the soil. Organic manures like cattle dung, grass, farm waste, etc., are widely used in the district. At the same time, the use of chemical fertilizers is also on increase. The total requirements of the farmers in this district is more than 5,000 tonnes of chemical fertilizers.¹ However, the co-operative societies are not fully equipped to meet this demand.

Before Independence, ammonium sulphate was used only by progressive cultivators. After Independence and introduction of the Five Year Plans various concessions are offered to the farmers as a result of which consumption of chemical fertilizers has increased. The following table shows the use of fertilizers in the district:

STATEMENT IV. 10

Fertilizers Use Of

(FIGURES IN TONNES)

| Year | Nitrogenous | | Phosphatic | | | Potash |
|---------|-------------------|------|-----------------|----------------------|-----|--------|
| | Ammonium sulphate | Urea | Super phosphate | Diammonium phosphate | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| 1970-71 | .. | 171 | 928 | 6 | 257 | 8 |
| 1971-72 | .. | 153 | 695 | 3 | 165 | 17 |
| 1972-73 | .. | 301 | 981 | 6 | 287 | 20 |

Source :

District Agricultural Officer, Gandhinagar.

1. Report of the Survey of Banking Potentaility in Gandhinagar District of Gujarat State 1971, p. 22.

From the above statistics, it will appear that the use of ammonium sulphate has increased from 171 tonnes to 301 tonnes during three years while the use of other fertilizers is also on increase.

MANURES

Organic manures are also very important for the maintenance of soil fertility and soil structure. Humus, which is soil binding material can only be made available either from organic manures or from plant residues. The organic manure available with farmers can be applied readily without going through the process of soil analysis. Generally, cow dung, stalk of cotton and castor are misused as fuel. Wide-spread adoption of composting would greatly enhance the value of this organic manure.

The following figures indicate the increasing use of manures in the district during the last few years.

| | | (IN TONNES) | | |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| Sl. No. | Name of Manures | 1970-71 | 1971-72 | 1972-73 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Rural Compost | .. | 1,838 | 2,830 |
| 2 | Town Compost | .. | .. | ..* |

* There is no production of town compost, because there is no municipality in the district.

Source :
District Agricultural Officer, Gandhinagar.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS AND DISEASES

The standing crop needs to be protected to reap good harvest. In the past, very little was done regarding plant protection measures. After Independence and the introduction of the Five Year Plans, sufficient attention has been paid to this aspect. The agricultural pests and diseases if not controlled by scientific methods, cause great loss to crop production.

Besides the use of improved seeds, fertilizers and manures, the farmers also use insecticides for protection of their crops. Many agencies neutralise the good effect of favourable crop production. They are (a) natural forces, (b) inroads by birds and animals, (c) pests and (d) diseases. Crop damages caused by natural calamities like floods, storms,

etc., are occasional. Stray cattle that cause damage can be prevented by proper fencing but pests and diseases are responsible for considerable loss of agricultural produce. It is estimated that these pests and diseases damage about 15 per cent of the crop production in the district. The pests and diseases found in the district in different crops are as follows.

| Sl. No | Name of Crop 2 | Pests-Diseases 3 |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1 | <i>Bajri</i> | Blister beetle, Grass-Hopper, Downy mildew |
| 2 | <i>Jowar</i> , Wheat | Grass-Hopper, Stem borer, |
| 3 | Maize and Paddy | Stem borer, Caterpillar, |
| 4 | <i>Jowar</i> , Cotton, Ground-nut and Maize | Aphids, Bollworm, |

Source : District Agricultural Officer, Gandhinagar.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Animal Husbandry is closely associated with agriculture and plays a vital part in its development. Livestock forms the main source of supply of draught power for cultivation and rural transport. It provides protective feeds such as milk, meat and other products like wool, hides, skin and organic matter. The cow dung also provides substantial field manure, and is universally recognised as being better than inorganic products for the retention of humus in soil and for maintaining its fertility. Its practical advantages over these products consist in the fact that it can be applied readily by farmers without the necessity of soil analysis and knowledge of the soil content.

CATTLE DEVELOPMENT

There is a *gaushala* and an agricultural school at Adalaj known as Shrimati Manekba Krishi Vidyalaya. Another *gaushala* is at Shertha, known as Kamdhenu Gaushala. They work for improving the cattle breed by scientific breeding, feeding and management.

There is one veterinary dispensary at Koba which was started in 1971. Besides there are two first-aid veterinary centres working since 1954 at Dabholoda and Randheja. One premium bull centre under taluka dispensary scheme was opened at Koba in 1973 under the management of the Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Dispensary, Koba. The services are provided to 12 villages in the nearby area.

Fodder Development Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to encourage farmers to take up improved fodder development practices and cultivate high-yielding varieties of fodder. This scheme was initiated in 1969-70 and was continued up to 1973-74. During this time leguminous seeds, non-leguminous seeds, roots and fertilizers were distributed to the farmers of this district.

Animal Diseases

The prevalence of cattle diseases is one of the most serious obstacles to the improvement of cattle. Animals suffer from a number of diseases such as haemorrhagic septicaemia, foot and mouth disease, contagious caprine, pleuro-pneumonia, etc. Of these, haemorrhagic septicaemia is the most destructive disease of clovenfooted animals, such as cows, bullocks and buffaloes. The disease is usually spread by contaminated feed and water and occurs generally in low-lying areas periodically inundated by rain water. Foot and mouth disease is a highly communicable disease affecting cloven-footed animals and is characterised by fever, formation of vesicles and blisters in mouth, udder and on the skin. The disease spreads very commonly by direct contact or indirectly, through infected water, manure, hay and pastures.

Free vaccinations given by the Animal Husbandry Department control the disease to a large extent. The programme of the prophylactic vaccinations is carried out every year, at places where the above diseases are endemic. As a result, most of these diseases, except the foot and mouth diseases, have been brought under control.

In 1971-72, 45 attacks of animal diseases were recorded, all of which had proved fatal. Of these, 35 pertained to haemorrhagic septicaemia of buffaloes and 10 pertained to haemorrhagic septicaemia of cattle. As against this, only 5 cases were recorded in the year 1974-75 all of which were foot and mouth diseases in buffaloes. None of these cases proved fatal. These figures speak of the improvement in veterinary services in the district.

LIVESTOCK POPULATION

As an agricultural district, Gandhinagar is rich in its livestock population. The district had a total livestock population of 85,664 in the year 1972 as against 81,851 in 1966. The following statement compares the population of different categories of livestock in 1966 and 1972.

STATEMENT IV. 11

Livestock Population, 1966 and 1972

| Categories of Livestock | 1 | 1966* | 1972+ |
|---------------------------|----|----------------|---------------|
| | | 2 | 3 |
| Total Livestock | .. | .. | 81,851 85,664 |
| A. Bullocks and Cows | .. | .. | 23,674 22,615 |
| (i) Males over 3 years | .. | .. | 13,616 12,986 |
| (ii) Females over 3 years | .. | .. | 5,385 5,980 |
| (iii) Young Stock | .. | .. | 4,673 2,649 |
| B. Buffaloes | .. | .. | 41,439 49,984 |
| (i) Males over 3 years | .. | .. | 144 76 |
| (ii) Females over 3 years | .. | .. | 22,436 27,160 |
| (iii) Young Stock | .. | .. | 18,859 22,748 |
| C. Sheep | .. | .. | 2,273 1,296 |
| D. Goats | .. | .. | 12,370 9,575 |
| E. Horses and Ponies | .. | .. | 68 99 |
| F. Mules | .. | .. | .. 7 |
| G. Donkeys | .. | .. | 1,124 1,241 |
| H. Camels | .. | सत्यमेव जप्तने | 903 847 |
| I. Pigs | .. | .. | |
| Poultry | .. | .. | 2,081 3,249 |
| 1 Fowls | .. | .. | 2,081 3,249 |
| 2 Ducks | .. | .. | |
| 3 Others | .. | .. | |

Source :

*District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar District, p. 17.

+ Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar.

Categorywise, increase in population is registered in respect of buffaloes, horses and ponies, donkeys and poultry. A slight decrease was recorded in population of cows and bullocks. In respect of sheep and goats, there is a heavy decline in population. This is mainly due to the fact that breeding of sheep and goats is discouraged as they resort to unchecked grazing of land which ultimately results in soil erosion. Goat rearing is carried on mainly for selling to slaughter houses. Camels are very widely used for transportation,

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

Cows, buffaloes, bullocks, sheep and goats are the chief domestic animals of the Gandhinagar district.

Cattle—The Kankrej breed of cattle is found in this district. The cows are fairly good milch animals with an average yield of about 3,000 litres of milk per lactation. The main characteristic of this breed is its light grey body colour and dark grey colour on the face. Both the fore and the hind legs have black colour in front up to the knee and hock. The head is broad and disc-shaped. The mouth is short. The ears are long and extending upto the nostrils. The hump is well developed. The tail is short extending a little below the hock. The Kankrej cattle are very highly prized as fast, powerful draught cattle. The district had 5,939 cows and 12,986 bulls in the year 1972.

Buffaloes—The Mahesana buffaloes constitute the main breed in this district. This breed appears to have been derived from a mixture of Murrah and Surati breed. The Mahesana buffaloes are considered to be particularly valuable milch animals due to their early maturity, long period of milk supply and regularity in breeding. They are largely used for milk and *paneer* production. They are well-shaped animals of medium size. The general appearance is bright with prominent eyes, straight back, sickle shaped curved horns of medium length, and long and broad head rounded between the horns. The animals are docile in character. These buffaloes are considered to be good producers of milk and butter fat. The population of buffaloes was 49,984 in 1972.

Sheep—The main breed in the district is Patanwadi breed. This breed is important from the view point of both milk and wool. Ordinarily, a sheep gives about 1 kg. of wool twice a year. Its chief characteristics are as under: It is red-faced with long tails and ears. The limbs and face are devoid of wool. Rabaris graze their sheep on pasture lands and sell the wool in local market. The total sheep population was 1,296 in 1972.

Goats—Generally Muslims, Harijans, Rabaris and Bharwads keep goats for milk only. There are two types, *Patira*, a small one and *Deshi*, a tall one. The former gives 1 litre milk while the latter gives 2 litres of milk per day. According to the Livestock Census of 1972, the population of goats was 9,575 in this district.

FISHERIES

As the district has neither sea-coast nor big perennial rivers, fishing activity is on a negligible scale. Only a few persons carry it on in ponds or in the Sabarmati and the Khari rivers. However, this activity does not provide substantial work and income to them. Moreover, as the majority of population is vegetarian, there is very little possibility of development of fisheries in this district. The Department of Fisheries has installed a few aquarium tanks with various types of fishes for exhibition.

FORESTS

There is a negligible area under forests in the district. No part of this district has been declared as forest area, though it is rich in vegetation. While mango groves and a number of other trees are extensively noticed in this district, some trees are being specially planted mainly along the roads.

The Forest Department is entrusted with the duty of extension of forestry in this district. Every year about one lakh seedlings are reared for supplying them to the public interested in growing trees. It has been also entrusted with raising of village forest under the programme of Extension of Forestry. During 1974, about 20 hectares of land was covered under 'village forest' in the gaucher area of Adalaj village. The area in which the tree planting activities are carried out is in charge of the Public Works Department.

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During the last four years, the Forest Department has raised nearly 264,000 trees in and around the township of Gandhinagar. Efforts are made to plant trees on the bank of the Sabarmati to check ravines.

THE STATE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

In the former Bombay State, it was the Bombay State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank which provided State finance to agriculture. After the formation of the Gujarat State, the Land Mortgage Bank in the State was renamed as the Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank. It opened its branch at Gandhinagar in 1966. Agricultural finance by this bank plays a vital role in fulfilling the long-term credit requirements of the agricultural sector. As a result, the agriculturists are inclined to take to scientific methods of farming requiring more credit facilities. Thus the advances made by the bank become instrumental in accelerating the development of agriculture.

A total amount of Rs. 103 lakhs has been advanced by the Bank to cultivators since the establishment of its branch in this district. Advances made in 1973-74 were of the order of Rs. 18 lakhs. The amount was mainly utilised for increasing irrigational facilities, *i.e.*, purchase of oil-engines, electric motors, pumping sets, etc., and for construction of new wells or repairs of old ones.

In addition to the advances from the Land Development Bank, the cultivators now receive some aid from the Joint Stock Banks. The co-operative societies also advance loans for specific purposes.

Recovery of dues is as important as advances of loans. In 1973-74, 76 per cent recovery was made in this district.¹

FAMINE AND SCARCITY

As the district came into existence only after 1964, data about past famines are not available. However, the famines which occurred in the adjoining districts of Mahesana and Ahmadabad during the past might be considered to have affected areas forming parts of this district also. Great famines were recorded mainly during the following years: 1731-32, 1747, 1790-91, 1812-13, 1899-1900, 1911, and 1938-39. After Independence, 1948-49, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1957-58, 1960-61, 1966-67 and 1968-69, were recorded as famine years. No major famine has been reported after the formation of the district. However, in 1972-73, as many as 73 villages of this district were affected by scarcity while two villages, *viz.*, Lavarpur and Limbadia were affected by semi-scarcity. Rs. 76,275 were given as grants to the Maldharis and shepherds to purchase fodder during the scarcity period. During 1974-75, all the villages of this district were affected by scarcity. For deepening and repairs of wells as well as for construction of new wells, grants were given to the agriculturists by Government. Cash doles were also granted to the poor during the scarcity period.

FLOODS

The Sabarmati and the Khari rivers pass through this district and flow from north-east to south-west. During the past, the river Sabarmati flooded due to heavy rain as a result of which considerable damage was done. Such occurrences were reported during the years 1714, 1739, 1755, 1813, 1822, 1857, 1868, and 1875. During 1936-37, a severe flood was recorded in the district. The recent flood of 1975-76 has also caused heavy damage to the standing crop.

¹ Annual Report—*Gujarat State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd., Ahmadabad, 1973-74*, pp. 30-31.



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CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

OLD-TIME INDUSTRIES

The Gandhinagar district as noted previously is carved out of the villages of adjoining districts of Ahmadabad and Mahesana. Industrially it is a backward district and possesses very few small scale and cottage industries. Among the villages and few towns, Pethapur is well-known for the industries such as block-making, dyeing and printing including *bandhani*, carpentry, pottery, making of silver and gold ornaments, bamboo work, blacksmithy, paper-box making, *bidi* making and extraction of oil by *ghani*.¹ Almost all these industries are old-time and house-hold. The town of Pethapur founded 1,000 years ago by a Vaghela Rajput was a well-known centre for manufacturing muskets, razors and *bandhani* saris. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial Series, Bombay Presidency's Vol. II*, notes, "The town was noted for the brilliancy of its dyes and for the manufacture of cutlery, but the latter industry is declining. Considerable quantities of cloth were brought into the town to be coloured, and were then exported to Siam".²

Pethapur posed a problem at the time of 1857 uprising. This is evident from letter dated 29th October, 1857 to J. W. Hadow, Magistrate of Ahmadabad by Major Agar, Superintendent of Police who pointed out that the attempt to disarm Ahmadabad district would be of no avail without disarming the neighbouring native States including Pethapur. The district, however, would loose its best blacksmiths in the event of disarming. As an illustration he stated that "Pethapur, the chief manufacturing centre for matchlocks and sword blades would loose its industry if the measures of prohibition of manufacturing or dealing in arms without a license were not applied simultaneously in all the areas of Gujarat, including those of the Gaikwar and of other chiefs".³ The illustration evidently points out that the matchlocks and sword blades industry flourished at Pethapur.

POWER

In the economic development of a region, power is the prime necessity. Prior to the formation of the Gujarat State and thereafter power was

1. Census of India, 1961, *Selected Crafts of Gujarat*, Vol. V, Part VII-A, (1970) pp. 3-4.

2. *The Imperial Gazetteer of India Provincial Series, Bombay Presidency Vol. II*, (1909), p. 445.

3. DHARAIYA R. K., (Dr.) *Gujarat in 1857*, (1969), pp. 53-54.

supplied by the Electricity Board to the Gandhinagar district from the North Gujarat Grid Scheme which was receiving power from Ahmadabad Electricity Company. Subsequent to the commissioning of Dhuvan Thermal Power Station in May, 1965, the Gujarat Electricity Board has been supplying the power to the district through the inter-connected grid system.

As regards Gandhinagar township, the Government of Gujarat have extended the area of supply and permitted the Ahmadabad Electricity Company for the supply of power to it from August, 1969.

In the district, there are 75 villages, out of which 62 villages get supply from Board's grid system. All the electric lines within Gandhinagar township are laid with underground cables.

Consumption of Electricity

Consumption of electricity during the years 1971-72 and 1973-74 is given in the following table.

| Sl. No. 1 | Item 2 | Years | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | 1971-72 in kWh 3 | 1973-74 in kWh 4 |
| 1 Domestic | .. | 810,249 | 1,038,998 |
| 2 Commercial | .. | 134,331 | 170,614 |
| 3 Industrial power | .. | 9,85,804 | 1,290,09 |
| 4 Public lighting | .. | 200,873 | 267,823 |
| 5 Agricultural | .. | 15,369,719 | 17,855,698 |
| 6 Public Water Works | .. | 424,562 | 545,255 |
| Total | .. | 17,925,538 | 21,168,491 |

kWh = Kilowatt hours.

Source :

The Chief Engineer (R.E.), Gujarat Electricity Board, Vadodara.

From the table it appears that the consumption of electricity has increased in almost all the categories. The industry and agriculture, however, have been the main beneficiaries.

The Rural Electrification

An important object of the Third Five Year Plan was to develop efficient small scale industries in small towns and in rural areas so as to increase employment opportunities, raise incomes and living standard and bring about a more balanced and diversified rural economy. In achieving

these objectives, the major limiting factor was the lack of power. With the supply of electricity, it has become possible to reorganise the traditional industries and to introduce small industries based on steadily improving techniques in order to meet the new needs of the expanding rural economy. Viewed in this context, the scheme of rural electrification has assumed great significance. Special attention is being given since last four or five years to the scheme of rural electrification in the district. The table given below shows the plan-wise progress in electrification of villages in the district.

| Sl. No. 1 | Plan 3 | Villages Electrified 3 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | First Five Year Plan | .. .. .. .. .. |
| 2 | Second Five Year Plan | 11 |
| 3 | Third Five Year Plan | 18 |
| 4 | Non-Plan Period | 15 |
| 5 | Fourth Five Year Plan | 18 |
| Total | | 62 |

Source : The Chief Engineer, (RE), Gujarat Electricity Board, Vadodara.

The foregoing table shows that at the end of Fourth Five Year Plan, in all 62 villages were electrified by the Gujarat Electricity Board. Thus 82.6% of the villages have been electrified by the Gujarat Electricity Board in the district.

INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURES

Mining and Heavy Industries

The important economic minerals available in the district are mineral oil and gas, sand, *kankar*, gravel and brick earth.

The district has acquired importance of late in the State as mineral oil and gas are found in it. At present the exploration activities are being conducted at Valad, Vavol, Vithalpura and Indroda in the district. About 200 sq. km., of area in the district is leased out to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The Vavol and Indroda fields have yielded only oil.

No systematic geological survey of the district has been carried out in detail. The major portion of the revenue is realised from minor minerals such as sand, *kankar* and gravel which are found in the bed of the river Sabarmati. The details of production, number of quarry leases granted and persons employed are shown in the sub-joined Statement V.1.

STATEMENT V.1

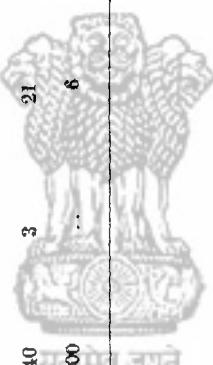
Production, Value, Total Number of Quarry Leases Granted, Number of Persons Employed and Royalty/Dead-rent Paid for the Years 1967 and 1973

| Sl. No. | Name of mineral | Production in M. tonnes | | Value in Rs. | Total No. of Q.L. granted as on 31-12-67 | Average No. of persons employed 1967 | Royalty/dead-rent paid 1967 |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | 1967 | 1973 | | | | |
| 1 | Sand | 10,613 | 96,470 | 13,266 | 1,92,940 | 3 | 21 |
| 2 | Kankar | 2,762 | 8,050 | 11,648 | 16,100 | .. | 6 |

Note : There is no major mining lease in the district.

Source :

The Director of Geology and Mining, Ahmedabad.



TRENDS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The comparative analysis of industrial development from the view point of period indicates the extent of development that has taken place as also the diversification of industries. The comparable statistics are available for the years 1960, 1965 and 1970. The trends of industrial development during this last decade, 1960-1970 are reflected in the number of factories and workers compared in the sub-joined Statement V. 2. The figures reveal that there were 2 factories in 1960 employing 209 workers. One was a ginning and pressing factory providing employment to 135 persons while the other was manufacturing wood and cork which provided employment to 74 persons in 1960. In 1965, the number of factories increased to 5. They provided employment to 420 persons. In 1970, the number of factories increased to 11 providing employment to 1,166 persons. In 1970 from the view point of number of factories the important units were structural clay products and gins and presses. However, printing, book binding, etc. (Government Press) was the only unit which provided employment to more than 500 persons. It employed 592 persons. Out of six factories of structural clay products one was engaged in manufacture of tiles and rest were manufacturing bricks.



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STATEMENT V.2

Number and Types of Working Factories Showing Average Employment 1960, 1965 and 1970

| Sl. No. | Name of the Industry | 1960 | | | 1965 | | | 1970 | | |
|------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | | No. of factories | No. of workers | No. of factories |
| 1 | Gins and Presses | .. | .. | 1 | 136 | 1 | 225 | 3 | 210 | |
| 2 | Manufacture of wood and cork except manufacture of furniture | 1 | 74 | 1 | 56 | 1 | 36 | | | |
| 3 | Printing, book-binding, etc, .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 6 | 1 | 592 | |
| 4 | Structural clay products | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 133 | 6 | 330 | |
| | Total | .. | .. | 2 | 209 | 5 | 420 | 11 | 1,166 | |

Source : District Census Handbook 1971, Part X.C.1, Gandhinagar District, p. 19.

INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

The 1961 Census made a beginning in systematising the enumeration of the industrial establishments and the extent of employment provided by them. As the Gandhinagar district was formed only in 1964, data about industrial establishments are available for the 1971 Census, and that too for selected groups of industries only. The types of industrial establishments in existence in the Gandhinagar district and the number of persons engaged therein are shown in the following table.

Selected Industrial Establishments, 1971

| Sl. No. | Major Group of Industry | Total No. of Establish- ments | No. of persons engaged |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | Manufacture of beverage, tobacco and tobacco products | 45 | 343 |
| 2 | Manufacture of food products | 136 | 267 |
| 3 | Manufacture of paper and paper products and printing, publishing and allied industries | 2 | 252 |
| 4 | Manufacture of wood and wood products, furniture and fixtures | 70 | 207 |
| 5 | Manufacture of textile products (including wearing apparel other than footwear) | 135 | 174 |
| 6 | Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products .. | 56 | 171 |
| 7 | Manufacture of cotton textiles | 19 | 99 |
| Total | | 463 | 1,513 |

Source :

Census of India 1971, *Administrative Atlas*, Part IX-A, Gujarat (1972), p. 65.

The total number of selected industrial establishments was 463 and the number of persons employed was 1,513 in the year 1971. Manufacture of food products and textiles including ready-made garments were the main industries accounting for 29.36 and 29.16 per cent respectively, followed by manufacture of wood and wood products, furniture and fixtures 15.12 per cent and manufacture of non-metallic mineral products 12.10 per cent. It is significant to note that there were two concerns engaged in manufacture of paper and paper products, printing and publishing, etc. This is a reference to the Government Printing Press, etc. From the view point of employment, the number of workers in manufacture of beverage and tobacco products was the largest (22.67 per cent). In the cotton textiles it was the lowest (6.54 per cent).

REGISTERED FACTORIES

The statistics of registered factories give some idea of the industrial development of the Gandhinagar district. They also pin-point types of industries and extent of employment provided by them.

According to the returns furnished by the Chief Inspector of Factories, the total number of registered factories was 19 in 1973. Among these factories, 17 factories were in the private sector. The public sector accounted for only 2 factories, one of which was Government Printing Press. According to the prescribed industrial classification, their break-up is given in the following Statement V.3. Among the factories in the private sector, 18 were working factories in 1973 and 1 factory was closed.

STATEMENT V.3

Registered Factories and Workers in 1973

| Sl. No. | Name of the Industry | Total No. of facto- ries | Total No. of work- ing fact- ories | Total No. of work- ing fact- ories sub- mitting returns | Average No. of workers employed daily in working factories |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| I—PUBLIC SECTOR | | | | | |
| 1 | Manufacture of paper and paper products and printing, publishing and allied industries | 1 | 1 | 1 | 604 |
| 2 | Repair Services | 1 | 1 | 1 | 47 |
| | Total | 2 | 2 | 2 | 651 |
| II—PRIVATE SECTOR | | | | | |
| 1 | Manufacture of cotton textiles | 2 | 2 | 2 | 336 |
| 2 | Manufacture of wood and wood products furniture and fixtures | 1 | 1 | 1 | 37 |
| 3 | Manufacture of non-metallic mineral products | 14 | 13 | 3 | 186 |
| | Total | 17 | 16 | 6 | 559 |
| | Grand Total | 19 | 18 | 8 | 1,210 |

Source :

The Chief Inspector of Factories, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

In the private sector, from the view point of employment, the most important unit was the manufacture of cotton textiles. From the view point of number, the important unit was the manufacure of non-metallic mineral products.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

Industrially the district is lagging behind in comparison with several other districts of the State. Even the small scale, traditional and cottage industries have not developed on a substantial scale.

The complete data regarding small scale industries are not available, as this district was constituted in 1964 from the several villages of Ahmedabad and Mahesana districts. Some information, however, regarding registered number of units available for the year 1974 is given below:

| Sl. No. 1 | Type of industry 2 | No. of Units 3 |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Textile | 1 |
| 2 | Timber | 1 |
| 3 | Chemical | 1 |
| 4 | Glass, ceramics and cement | 6 |
| 5 | Non-ferrous | 1 |
| 6 | Machinery except electrical machinery | 1 |
| Total | | 11 |

Source :

Gujarat Chemical Association, *Gujarat Chemical Directory*, (1975), pp. 220-221.

From the above table it is observed that excepting glass, ceramics and cement which account for 6 units, other industries claim only one unit. Thus there is much leeway to be made in the sphere of industrial development in the district.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS¹

Block Engraving at Pethapur

The town of Pethapur in Gandhinagar district has been famous for the craft of block engraving. The block engraving is a very old craft, the origin of which is not definitely known. It is said that probably the idea of hand-printing on cloth with engraved wooden blocks originated from the beautiful wood carvings on several buildings in Gujarat and Saurashtra. Some also believe that during the time of Mughal Emperor the craft was

1. Census of India, Vo. V, Part VII-A *Selected Crafts of Gujarat, Block Engraving at Pethapur.*, Delhi, (1970.)

brought from Iran and concentrated at Shikarpur in Sindh from where it spread to different parts in Gujarat. It is generally believed that one group of artisans keeping alive the ancient tradition of this craft settled at Pethapur in the early decades of 18th century. The craft has survived in the district inspite of growth of mill industry elsewhere. Hand—printing on cloth against white background represents the simpler method of colouring the cloth by means of vegetable dyes.

Caste and Community

The craftsmen working at Pethapur belong to Gurjar Suthar caste. Before 200 years they settled in the town and started working independently. Some of the artisans migrated to Ahmadabad after 1930 A.D. due to the harassment of the former Pethapur State. However, during the communal riots of 1941 they once again went to Penthapur. Pethapur in fact must have attracted them due to the following reasons, (i) low cost of living, (ii) low rent for workshop and residence, (iii) opening of new markets in Bombay and Ahmadabad.

In all 122 families were engaged in the craft. The total number of workers were 132. In all 122 households are engaged in 25 establishments of block making at present. The family members generally draw and carve the required designs, supervise the work, give final touch to the carved blocks and also attend to the matters pertaining to sales. Hired workers, however, do the work of cutting the pieces of wood according to the size of the blocks and grind them on the stone. Skilled workers trace designs and do engraving work. Two Luhar householders prepare punches, chisels and repair the tools used in the craft. Most of the establishments in Pethapur are located at Sutharwad. However, a few of them are located in the bazaar owing to the shortage of space in the house.

Only one family of block engravers in Pethapur employed hired workers in the production of blocks. In block engraving generally an artisan has to sit for more than 8 hours carving minute designs. The craftsmen have to do very minute work. Sometimes it is said that minute work makes the eyesight weak.

The chief raw material required for making blocks is hard timber. It is known as *sagi patli*. The timber is imported from the forests of Umarpada and other places in Surat district. The craftsmen of Pethapur formed a Co-operative Society whose representatives make the purchase of wood. This craft involves only manual labour and does not use the power in any operation. In their work the craftsmen are aided by tools and implements

used for dyeing to create a very attractive and minute design on the blocks. The technique of block engraving is as follows:

The thick and hard timber is cut into big logs. These logs are cut into pieces of 3" thick with saw and 4' in length. These uneven wooden pieces are known as *wadh*. Their edges are then sharpened properly by saw, chisel and Adze to give them oblong, square or round shape. The shapely pieces are then known as *kaplo*. Two types of blocks are engraved from *kapla*, one is called *rekh* or main block used for making out line and other as *datla* or subsidiary block used for colours. The design drawn in different colours on paper is fixed on the surface of the block by small nails or chisel known as *tichaniyu*. After the design is drawn the work of engraving is done on the block with a large number of tiny iron chisels. Skilled craftsmen devise their own designs which are varied in number and have motifs of flowers, creepers, leaves, human figures, etc. The most popular designs engraved on blocks are geometrical and floral.

The engraved blocks are in different sizes ranging from 6" to 8" in length, 1" to 7" in breadth and 3" in thickness. Two to three artisans can engrave a block, bringing an amount of Rs. 50 to Rs. 125 in 2 to 3 days. The engraved blocks are marketed in all the prominent hand printing centres of India. However, the main centres of marketing are Jetpur, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Ahmadabad and Bombay.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT¹

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The industrial development, *inter alia*, is related to the availability of primary resources. The main occupation of the people in the district is agriculture and agricultural pursuits. There are no important crops for industries. In 1974, there were only 11 factories registered with the Commissioner of Industries, under the Indian Factories Act, 1948, having average number of 1,293 persons employed daily. In addition to this, there were 9 small scale industrial units registered with the Commissioner of Industries. Following were different types of industries such as textile industry, wood industry, chemical industry, glass, clay and cement industries, non-ferrous metal and machinery except electrical machinery.

Some favourable factors for the industrial development of this district are the availability of power, raw materials, local labour, skilled manpower, entrepreneurs, net-work of railways and road transport services and

1. (A) The Commissioner of Industries, Ahmadabad.
 (B) Dena Bank, Bombay : *Report of the Survey of Banking Potentiality in the Gandhinagar District of Gujarat State, (1971)*.

market for the goods. The liberal financial assistance available from the State Financial Corporation and other financial institutions like the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation, the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation and the Gujarat Small Industries Development Corporation, can also encourage the industrial development of this district.

Some industrial units which can be profitably established are, (1) industries based on clay and sand found in the bed of the Sabarmati river, (2) units engaged in the production and repairs of agricultural implements, (3) units engaged in leather work, *bidi* making, oils, etc., (4) cotton-yarn spinning and weaving, (5) cloth printing industry and (6) dairy industry.

In the vast industrial zone located to the north of the capital town also, some medium and small scale industries can be established. It may be observed that there is a rice mill and one *dal* mill at Adalaj. One cotton ginning and pressing factory is also functioning at Randheja. There is also one factory manufacturing bobbins at Pethapur. Therefore more factories can be established in the vicinity of these towns.

Moreover, Unava and Randheja are important centres for the tobacco and cotton. Industries based on these raw materials can be established at both these centres. There are no cold storages in the district. As the district offers good scope for the cultivation of potato in the river bed of the Sabarmati, it is desirable to provide adequate finance for the establishment of cold storages.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS

Labour Organisations

The trade union movement signifies a collective effort on the part of labourers to increase their bargaining power in the labour market and thereby improve their social and economic conditions. It may be pointed out that there are practically no large scale industrial units in the district. The trade unions in the district at present are governed by the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926. There were only 3 registered trade unions in the district, with a total membership of 115 industrial workers as on 31st December, 1973.

Employers' Organisations

At present there is no Employers' Organisation in the district. Some of the important small scale industrial units of the district are members of

Employers' Organisations which are located in the Ahmadabad district. M/s. H. Wood Works, Pethapur is member of the (1) Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, (Gujarat Vepari Maha-Mandal), Ahmadabad (2) the Ahmadabad Mill Gin Stores Merchants Association, Ahmadabad and (3) the Gujarat State Bobbin Manufacturers Association, Ahmadabad. The Western Tiles Corporation, Pethapur is a member of the Ahmadabad Tiles Manufacturers Association, Ahmadabad. Furthermore the industries engaged in bricks manufacturing are mostly the members of the Brick Merchants Association, Ahmadabad.

WELFARE OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

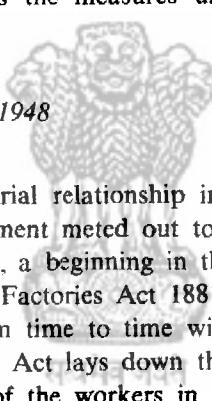
The present Gandhinagar district has been formed out of the several villages of Kalol, Dahegam and Daskroi talukas of Mahesana and Ahmadabad districts respectively. Prior to the Independence, the Mahesana and Ahmadabad districts formed part of the Baroda State and the Bombay State respectively and the labour legislation followed in those States was applicable to these districts also. In the Baroda State, in order to facilitate the promotion of industries and to regulate them on well established principles, the following rules and regulations were passed:

- (1) the Baroda Factories Act, 1930,
- (2) the Rules under the Baroda Factories Act, 1932,
- (3) the Indian Workmen's Compensation Rules, 1934,
- (4) the Bombay Maternity Benefits Act applied to the Baroda State 1932,
- (5) the Maternity Benefits State Rules, 1936,
- (6) the Boiler Act, 1926,
- (7) the Boiler Rules, 1937,
- (8) the Trade Disputes Rules, 1938,
- (9) the Trade Unions Act, 1938,
- (10) the Trade Unions Regulations 1938,
- (11) the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Act, 1931,
- (12) the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Rules, 1936,

- (13) the Payment of Wages Act as applied to the Baroda State, 1940,
- (14) the Bombay Payment of Wages Rules, as applied to the Baroda State, 1941,
- (15) the Payment of Wages (Procedure) Rules, 1942.

However, as the industrialisation is negligible in the district, the impact of labour policy was practically nil. With the establishment of industries, the labour and the labour legislation has assumed great significance. Among the several important measures undertaken by the Government, the factory legislation stands out prominently.¹ Apart from the Government, some large scale industries also regard welfare work as a prudent investment. Mention must be made of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Sertha. The section that follows outlines the measures undertaken for the welfare of industrial labour.

The Indian Factories Act, 1948



The harmonious industrial relationship in factories and workshops depends on the humane treatment meted out to the workers. For the regulation of conditions of labour, a beginning in the labour legislation was made as early as 1881, when the Factories Act 1881 was passed. Since 1937, the Act has been amended from time to time widening its scope and enlarging the rights of workers. The Act lays down the minimum provisions for the safety, health and welfare of the workers in the factories.

WAGES

The problem of wage determination cannot be considered in isolation from the larger economic and social background obtaining at present in the district. A well conceived wage policy aims at (a) continuous improvement in workers' living standard and (b) reasonable returns for the employers. The industrial development being negligible, the impact of wage policy has not been felt in the district. The subjoined Statement V. 4 gives a comparative idea of the minimum wages fixed for the workers in the rice, flour, *dal* and oil mills, and cotton ginning and pressing factories in the district.

1. The other Acts such as the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Minimum Wages Act, 1929, the Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, which promote the welfare of industrial labour have been described in the Chapter XVII—*Other Social Services*.

CHAPTER V—INDUSTRIES

STATEMENT V.4

Rates of Minimum Wages in the District Fixed Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

| Sl. No. | Name of the employment | Skilled workers | | Semi skilled workers | Unskilled workers | Area of operation | Date from which the wage rates are in force |
|------------|---|-----------------|--------|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| | | Rs. P. | Rs. P. | Rs. P. | Rs. P. | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 1 | Employment in rice mills, flour mills or <i>dall</i> mills. | 85.00 | | 75.00 | 67.00 | Towns having a population of 10,000 persons and above but less than 35,000 persons. | 1-4-1967 |
| | | | | | | Other parts of the district. | |
| | | 80.00 | | 70.00 | 62.00 | | |
| | | A | B | A | B | | |
| | | 140-00 | 100-00 | 90-00 | 80-00 | 70-00 | |
| | | 130-00 | 90-00 | 80-00 | 70-00 | 60-00 | |
| 2 | Employment in any cotton ginning or cotton pressing manufactory | | | | | .. | 1-1-1967 |

Source : The Commissioner of Labour, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.



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CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

A—Banking and Finance

GENERAL CREDIT FACILITIES

Indigenous Bankers

Gandhinagar district came into existence from December, 1964. Therefore, previous details about indigenous bankers in the district and their method of working are not available. However, some idea can be had from the *Kadi Prant Sarvasangraha* of the former Baroda State and the former *Ahmedabad Gazetteer* because the Gandhinagar district has been carved out from territories of the present Mahesana district and the Ahmedabad district. The details given in these sources throw lurid light on the working of these persons, *i.e.*, indigenous bankers and traders-cum-money-lenders.

In the Kadi Prant, these bankers belonged to the Shravak and Meshri Vanias, Brahmans and Patidars. In the beginning of the 19th century Bhats or Barots also indulged in money-lending business. The Vania money-lenders could hardly recover their loans from the turbulent Kolis whom they could not press for repayment of any debt. The Bhats or Barots who lent to the Kolis exerted from them the principal amount and heavy interest. If any borrower refused to pay, he threatened to perform violence on himself or some member of his family and the sin of shedding a Bhat's blood fell on the defaulter. The influence of the Bhats on the society however greatly diminished by the end of the last century.

Money-lenders with large resources were found in Ahmedabad and Viramgam and were Shravak and Meshri Vanias. The lowest of all in the ladder of indigenous bankers was the village shop-keeper, who was generally a Vania but sometimes also a Bohra, a Brahman, a Bhatia, a Luhana or a Kanbi. Till the end of the 18th century, as much as 25 per cent interest was charged. In addition, premium was also collected from the borrower at the time of granting advance.

In the Kadi Prant the rate of interest charged varied from 10 annas to 1 rupee per month according to the status of the borrower, where no distinction of the caste or profession of the borrower were made. Nevertheless, an artisan with good credit was able to get advance at cheaper rate than an agriculturist, because the former repaid quickly whereas the

latter could pay only after the harvest. When advances were made against some valuable securities, the rate of interest was comparatively lower.

In the past, relations between money-lenders in the towns and indigenous bankers in villages and their borrowers were generally cordial. The former acted as a guide and guardian of the latter. In almost every village, there were a few *sahukars* who, in addition to lending money, carried on retail trade through their shops. The accounts maintained by them were amicably settled and litigation was rarely resorted.

It is learnt from knowledgeable circles in the district that, Pethapur, Randheja, Rupal and Sardhav had persons of repute who liberally advanced money. Among these, Sheth Girdhardas Motidas of Kalol, Nagardas Shah of Randheja, Malukchand Sheth of Pethapur, Shah Prandas Harjivandas, Shah Mulchand Laxmichand and Shukla Ambaram Manchharam of Rupal, Sheth Sakalchand Hargovinddas of Sardhav and Sheth Chhagan Virchand of Adraj were very famous. The small money-lenders of surrounding villages and even Thakors of small estates borrowed from these people. They advanced money on the security of landed property or ornaments. Persons from Jain and Patel communities indulged in this business in Randheja. They charged very high rate of interest from the poor communities like Thakarda, Rabari, Vaghari, Bajania, etc. In addition to interest, discount was deducted at the time of advancing loans, particularly from persons of small means. Sometimes agreements for advance sale of crops from debtor cultivators were also obtained as security for loans advanced.

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INDEBTEDNESS

The exact information about indebtedness in the district is not available but some idea can be had from the *Baroda Banking Inquiry Committee Report*, which is mentioned below.

The problem of agrarian indebtedness is as old as agriculture. Because of their poor economic condition, the agriculturists were always at the mercy of the money-lenders who exploited them in all possible ways and made them their chronic debtors. On account of their improvidence and illiteracy, they borrowed recklessly from the money-lenders and incurred heavy debts mostly for unproductive purposes.

This was the general condition of Indian farmers, and the farmers of this district were no exception.

Gandhinagar district comprises villages of the former Kadi Prant which was under the Gaekwad of Baroda. After the famine of 1899 an inquiry was instituted to determine the extent and the nature of farm-debt.

The aim of the inquiry was to provide relief to the farmers by scaling down their debts. The inquiry revealed that every Khatedar in the Kadi Prant was, on an average, indebted to the extent of Rs. 428 in 1901.¹

The subsequent estimates made in 1912, 1918 and 1925 showed that the total agrarian debt was around Rs. 8 crores in the Baroda State. This was attributed to: (1) uneconomic holdings, (2) expensive social customs, (3) drinking habits and (4) recurrent failure of crops, famines, and cattle diseases. On account of depression in 1929 the prices of agricultural commodities had declined precipitately. This led to the worsening in the economic condition of the farmers. But on account of World War II, there had been a great improvement in the farmers' condition and the resultant decrease in their debt.

After Independence there has been a shift towards production of cash crops as also increase in the outturn of crops on account of utilisation of latest methods in agriculture. The Government has also set-up a number of agencies for providing loans to farmers. These agencies provide finance for productive purposes only. The commercial banks are now also compelled to divert a part of their funds for agricultural purposes after nationalisation of banks in 1969. With the increase in the literacy standards, the farmers have realised the consequences of their reckless borrowings. These factors have generally resulted in a decline in the debts of the cultivators.

MONEY-LENDERS

Substantial measures to regulate the activities of money-lenders were not adopted till the middle of this century. In 1946, the Bombay Money-lenders' Act was passed which purported to restrict the activities of money-lenders' by bringing them within the fold of the enactment. The Act came into force from 1947. In 1950, it was applied to the Mahesana district.

The main provisions of the Act were licensing and registration of money-lenders, maintenance of accounts in prescribed form, furnishing of receipts and statement of accounts to debtors and fixation of rate of interest at 12 per cent on secured and 15 per cent on unsecured loans. These provisions are beneficial to borrowers, as they are able to check their dealings with money-lenders on the basis of statement and get mistakes or fraudulent entries corrected or deleted as the case may be. This Act has also restricted the habits of money-lenders to make doubtful entries or give no credit toward the instalments paid by the borrower. The following statement shows the number of licensed money-lenders and their transactions from 1967 to 1974.

1. *Report of the Baroda Banking Enquiry Committee, 1929-30*, p. 115.

STATEMENT VI.1**Licenced Money-lenders, 1967-74**

| Year 1 | Number 2 | Loans | | Total 5 |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| | | Traders 3 | Non-traders 4 | |
| | | Rs. | Rs. | |
| 1967 | 112 | 26,143 | 1,81,346 | 2,07,489 |
| 1968 | 106 | 27,240 | 1,72,150 | 1,99,390 |
| 1969 | 103 | 28,770 | 1,85,425 | 2,14,195 |
| 1970 | 93 | 31,850 | 1,90,375 | 2,22,225 |
| 1971 | 87 | .. | 2,71,523 | 2,71,523 |
| 1972 | 79 | .. | 2,82,352 | 2,82,352 |
| 1973 | 78 | .. | 2,83,471 | 2,83,471 |
| 1974 | 76 | .. | 5,85,213 | 5,85,213 |

Source : Assistant District Registrar, (Money-lenders), Ahmadabad.

The statement shows that the number of licensed money-lenders has decreased continuously in less than a decade from 112 in 1967 to 76 in 1974. This may be due to the fact that some of the money-lenders might have shifted to some other business because of their unwillingness to work within the strict framework of the Bombay Money-lenders' Act. Secondly, though their numerical strength has declined, their dealings especially with non-traders, which also include agricultural classes, have increased considerably. However, their transactions with traders have practically disappeared after the year 1970. This shows that despite the growth of alternative credit agencies like commercial banks and co-operative societies and various autonomous corporations established for providing finance to industry and agriculture, the age old institution of money-lenders has still retained its hold in the money-market, especially in the structure of rural finance. The reasons for their popularity lie in the easy accessibility and method of providing help instantaneously.

JOINT STOCK BANKS

The banking structure comprising the commercial, i.e., mercantile banks and the co-operative banks play a very important role in the economic development of a region. On account of their large net-work spreading over urban, semi-urban and rural areas, they encourage the savings habits of the people and at the same time provide funds for the development of agriculture, industries, trade and commerce and also meet the personal

requirements of the people by giving them facilities of cash credits and even overdraft if necessary. They thus, help in the alround development of the economy of a district. In this section the development of commercial banking in the Gandhinagar district is briefly described.

Gandhinagar, located some 30 kms., north of Ahmadabad on the left bank of the river Sabarmati, was chosen to be the site for the proposed capital of Gujarat at the time of the formation of the State in 1960. As the capital town was to be newly constructed, the temporary capital was located at Ahmadabad which was already over-congested both industrially and commercially. So the township was conceived in the ideal surrounding of greenary north of Ahmadabad, and far from the hustle and bustle of the industrial city. A separate district for Gandhinagar was created towards the close of the year 1964. As the area comprising the new district is almost rural, with the sole exception of the capital township of Gandhinagar, there is no large scale development of commercial banking in the district because of absence of industrial and commercial activities. A branch office of the Bank of Baroda opened at Pethapur in 1966 can be considered to be the first branch of the commercial bank in the district. In the year 1969, five branches of other commercial banks were opened. By the end of the year 1972, the number of branches functioning in the district was 16. The following statement shows the growth of commercial banking in the district together with their dates of opening and location.

Joint Stock Banks, 1972

| Sl. No. 1 | Name of the Bank 2 | सत्यमेव जयते Place of location 3 | Date of opening 4 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | State Bank of India | Gandhinagar | 5-6-70 |
| 2 | -do- | Randheja | 28-12-65 (Sub-office) |
| 3 | -do- | Dabholia | 29-12-70 |
| 4 | -do- | Kolavada | 29-12-70 |
| 5 | Central Bank of India | Vavol | 15-10-69 |
| 6 | -do- | Unvarsad | 4-11-69 |
| 7 | -do- | Adalaj | 4-11-69 |
| 8 | -do- | Sardolvad | 13-6-69 |
| 9 | Dena Bank | Gandhinagar | 5-10-70 |
| 10 | -do- | Shertha | 22-6-71 |
| 11 | -do- | Rupal | 26-11-71 |
| 12 | -do- | Chandkheda | 7-2-72 |
| 13 | Bank of Baroda | Gandhinagar | 9-8-70 |
| 14 | -do- | Unava | 12-11-69 |
| 15 | -do- | Pethapur | 27-10-66 |
| 16 | Bank of India | Gandhinagar | 27-12-72 |

The statement shows that till 1972 there were 16 branches of five commercial banks. The capital had as many as 4 branches. After the nationalisation of the major commercial banks in the country in 1969, some of the major banks functioning in each region were assigned the functions of the Lead Bank. Under this arrangement, the Dena Bank was assigned the functions of the Lead Bank for the Gandhinagar district. The bank carried out a survey of the existing banking facilities and other connected matters in the district. The findings of the Bank revealed that there was very little development of banking institutions in the district. Almost the entire area on the eastern side of the Sabarmati river was considered to be the unbanked area. The southern portion of the district was also found to be similarly unbanked. All the development of the commercial banking had taken place only in the western portion of the district. To correct these imbalances, the Dena Bank proposed a scheme for opening new branches in the semi-banked and unbanked areas and classified the area in the two groups, viz.,(1) expansion of the banking facilities in Gandhinagar township and villages in proximity of it, and (2) expansion of the branches in the rural centres in the interior.

At present, banking facilities are available to a few sectors out of 30 sectors of the town. The bank proposes to serve other developing sectors and the surrounding villages either by opening a mobile bank or a satellite bank or by setting up one man branches. So far as expansion of banking facilities in the rural centres in the interior is concerned, it has been proposed to open a branch at some developing centres like Piplaj, Chiloda, Khoraj, Por etc. These branches are also expected to serve the cluster of nearby villages.

As seen earlier, much of the banking expansion was made from the year 1969 onwards. On account of this, there is expansion in both deposits and advances. This will be evident from the following table.

STATEMENT VI.2

Deposit and Advances by Commercial Banks in Gandhinagar District

(Rs. IN LAKHS)

| Name of the Centre 1 | Deposits Rs. 1969 2 | | Advances Rs. 1969 4 | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|
| | 1972 3 | 1972 5 | 1969 4 | 1972 5 |
| Gandhinagar town | .. | .. | 272 | .. |
| Others* | | 38 | 87 | 7 |
| Total | .. | .. | 38 | 253 |
| | | | 359 | 17 |
| | | | 7 | 270 |

* Includes Centres with less than three branches.

Source :

Statistical Table Relating to Banks in India, 1969 P. A. 112 for the year 1969 and *Banking Statistics* (Reserve Bank of India), 1972, p. 45.

The statement shows that there is considerable expansion of the deposits and advances in the district. Deposits have risen from Rs. 38 lakhs in 1969, to Rs. 359 lakhs or 844.74 per cent. Similarly advances have gone up from Rs. 7 lakhs only in 1969 to Rs. 270 lakhs in 1972. This is due to the expansion of the banking facilities in the district. In 1969, advances formed only 18.42 per cent of the deposits, while in 1972 they were as much as 75.21 per cent. This may be attributed to the policy of lending initiated in the wake of nationalisation in 1969. Agriculture has become very prosperous in this district as fruits and vegetables, food crops like *jowar*, *bajri* and wheat, and cash crops like cotton, oil seeds, tobacco and chillies are grown in substantial quantities in the district. The commercial banks now supplement co-operative banks in respect of finance for agricultural inputs and for irrigation. A scheme for providing finance for cultivation of potatoes in the bed of Sabarmati river has also been formulated by the Dena Bank.

Thus the funds at the disposal of one of the most important financing agencies like the commercial banks, which were till recently cornered by the big commercial and industrial houses, have now been made available to the priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industries, small traders, artisans, rickshaw drivers, etc., who are now encouraged to become self-reliant by availing of the facilities offered by these banks.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES AND BANKS

Gandhinagar district was formed in December 1964 by transferring some villages from Dehgam taluka and Daskroi mahal of the Ahmadabad district and from Kalol taluka of the Mahesana district.

It will be interesting to learn that in both these districts, the Indian Co-operative Societies Act was in force ever since 1905. The history of the co-operative movement in these districts would *ipso facto* be the background of the growth of this movement in the Gandhinagar district.

The co-operative movement covered less than 40 per cent of the population in Dehgam and Daskroi talukas in 1961. From the view point of average working capital per society also, these two talukas occupied the lowest position in 1961 among all the taluka/mahals of the Ahmadabad district. Nearly 53 villages had been transferred to Gandhinagar disrtict from Dehgam taluka and Daskroi mahal in which the co-operative movement was comparatively less developed.

Some villages have been segregated from the Kalol taluka and added to the Gandhinagar district. The co-operative movement made considerable headway in the Mahesana district on account of the progressive policy

of the former rulers of Barods State. The Co-operative Societies Act was introduced in the Kadi prant along with other parts of the State as far back as 1905. In the Kalol taluka of the former Kadi prant, there were seven agricultural credit societies in 1918-19. On the eve of the formation of the Gandhinagar district, there were as many as 72 agricultural credit societies out of 147 societies of all types in Kalol taluka. This was the position of the co-operative societies in the area from which present Gandhinagar district is carved out. In this context, the present position of the agricultural and non-agricultural credit societies is reviewed below.

Agricultural Credit Societies

These societies occupy the most important place in the entire co-operative structure. It would not be out of place to state that the movement was primarily introduced in the country to solve the problem particularly of the agrarian nature. Barring the Gandhinagar township, the rest of the district is rural. In a district comprising large rural areas, like that of Gandhinagar, agricultural credit societies ought to play a dominant role. The progress achieved by the movement bring out the fact that agricultural credit societies have made steady progress in the district, ever since it came into being. This will be evident from the following table.

STATEMENT VI.3

Working of Agricultural Credit Societies, 1970-71—1973-74

| Year 1 | No. of Societies 2 | Member- ship 3 | Share Capital 4 | Deposits | | Advances 6 | Overdues 7 |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | Rs. 5 | Rs. 5 | | |
| 1970-71 | .. | 82 | 8,742 | 16,29,360 | 1,83,876 | 48,52,192 | 24,29,963 |
| 1971-72 | .. | 82 | 8,955 | 15,85,110 | 1,90,800 | 73,14,005 | 11,72,303 |
| 1972-73 | .. | 81 | 10,441 | 17,17,835 | 1,34,299 | 72,69,668 | 6,71,800 |
| 1973-74 | .. | 60 | 12,036 | 20,12,815 | 72,192 | 68,54,000 | 5,23,209 |

Source :
Taluka Development Officer, Gandhinagar.

The above statement shows that though the number of societies has remained more or less steady and even declined in the year 1973-74, their overall performance was more or less satisfactory. Their membership rose from 8,742 in 1970-71 to 12,036 in 1973-74. Share capital increased from Rs. 16,29,360 to Rs. 20,12,815, and advances went up from Rs. 48,52,192 in 1970-71 to Rs. 72,69,668 in 1972-73 but slightly declined to Rs. 68,54,000 in 1973-74, because some of the uneconomic societies were asked to wind up their business. Similarly the deposits also skidded down from Rs. 1,83,876 in 1970-71 to Rs. 72,192 for the same reason.

Non-Agricultural Credit Societies

Just as the agricultural credit societies are the backbone of the agriculturists, the non-agricultural credit societies are to the urbanites particularly the small traders, artisans, salary earners, etc. These societies are usually situated in the semi-urban and in urban centres. As there is only one town in the Gandhinagar district, non-agricultural credit societies have not developed to the extent desired. In 1974-75, there were only three non-agricultural credit societies with a membership of 1190, share capital of Rs. 5.65. 110, deposits Rs. 3,11,639; advances Rs. 8,64,622 and working capital Rs. 11,15,336.

The Randheja Commercial Co-operative Bank Limited

The account of co-operative societies in the district would be incomplete without the mention of the Randheja Commercial Co-operative Bank Limited which was established at Randheja on 19th April, 1972, thanks to the initiative of the local leaders and the co-operation of the people. Within 4 years of working, the bank has made a very rapid progress in its operations. It has achieved 'A' grade among other co-operative societies according to the audit report for the year 1974-75. Its authorised share capital is Rs. 20 lakhs of which Rs. 1,64,100 has been paid up. The bank gives 6 per cent interest on savings account, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on current deposits and between 5 and 11 per cent on the fixed deposits ranging from 16 days onwards to 5 years and beyond. The following statistics show the progress made by the bank in its operations from 1972 to 1975.

STATEMENT VI.4**The Randheja Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Randheja.**

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Year | | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| | | 1972 3 | 1973 4 | 1974 5 | 1975 6 |
| 1 | 2 | | | | |
| 1 | Membership | 300 | 332 | 363 | 389 |
| 2 | Share capital | 99,400 | 1,15,000 | 1,541,00 | 1,64,100 |
| 3 | Other capital | 1,604 | 2,869 | 6,413 | 15,122 |
| 4 | Deposits | 70,450 | 4,88,390 | 9,30,400 | 8,58,910 |
| 5 | Advances | 1,88,654 | 5,38,812 | 12,21,250 | 9,14,779 |
| 6 | Working capital | 2,44,340 | 7,33,459 | 15,29,935 | 12,11,546 |
| 7 | Profit | 65 | 7,358 | 25,171 | 46,500 |
| 8 | Dividend | .. | .. | 5% | 9% (Proposed) |

Source :

Fourth Annual Report, the Randheja Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd.,
Randheja.

The Ahmedabad District Central Co-operative Bank Limited

There is no separate district central co-operative bank for the Gandhinagar district, but the Ahmedabad District Central Co-operative Bank functions through twelve branches in the Gandhinagar district opened during November 1965 and February 1975. These branches are located at Unvarsad, Randheja, Sardhav, Rupal, Pethapur, Kolvada, Unava, Por, Gandhinagar, Dabhoda, Isanpur Mota and Chandkheda. Its first branch was opened at Unvarsad on 28th November, 1965.

The bank provides short term loans for a period of 12 to 15 months to the agriculturists for raising the crop. Similarly medium term loans are also provided for a period of 3 to 5 years for purchase of bullocks, carts and electric motors as well as for digging the wells. The bank also grants cash credit to consumer stores, industrial co-operatives, etc., and also provides accommodative loans for construction of residential houses by the co-operative housing societies. The bank generally does not provide finance directly to individual cultivators, but where the agricultural credit society is stagnant or taken into liquidation, the individual farmer is enrolled as a nominal member and is made eligible for financial assistance from the bank.

The following statement shows the working of the bank in the district:

STATEMENT VI.5

Ahmedabad District Co-operative Bank Ltd., 1965-1975

(RUPEES IN LAKHS)

| Year 1 | No. of branches at the end of the year | | Deposits | Advances outstanding | Individual Advances outstanding |
|-----------|--|----|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 2 | 3 | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1965-66 | .. | .. | 2 | 5.18 | 3.46 |
| 1969-70 | .. | .. | 8 | 38.26 | 36.34 |
| 1971-72 | .. | .. | 10 | 67.41 | 45.73 |
| 1972-73 | .. | .. | 10 | 87.54 | 55.14 |
| 1973-74 | .. | .. | 10 | 109.01 | 61.25 |
| 1974-75 | .. | .. | 12 | 126.57 | 71.90 |
| | | | | | 1.22 |

The statement reveals that the bank has made a commendable progress during the last six years. Moreover, deposits have risen by 230.81 per cent from Rs. 38.26 lakhs in 1969-70 to Rs. 126.57 lakhs in 1974-75. Advances outstanding have also risen from Rs. 3.46 lakhs in 1965-66 to Rs. 71.90 lakhs in 1974-75. This shows the quantum of bank lending for agricultural advancement in the district.

Insurance

The agencies doing insurance business play an important role in tapping a portion of the public savings in the form of insurance premia. With the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956, the Life Insurance Corporation has become the foremost and the largest single agency doing life insurance business in the country. It was constituted by a Parliamentary enactment in 1956. Since then all insurance companies, Indian and foreign ceased to carry on life insurance business in the country.

In the organisational and administrative set-up the Gandhinagar district is placed under the charge of the Ahmadabad Division of the Corporation.

On the basis of the details furnished by the Corporation, the number of policies issued by it in the district increased from 266 in 1970-71 to 817 in 1973-74. The sum assured under them increased from Rs. 11.65 lakhs to Rs. 46.12 lakhs and the collection by way of premium increased from Rs. 23,247 to Rs. 1,26,789. The Corporation utilises the fund for investment in various sectors of the economy and also helps in the construction of residential houses by granting loans to statutory housing boards in the country.

Small Savings

Small savings play a very important role in the capital formation, which is very essential for an accelerated economic growth. On the one hand it helps to restrict consumption or spending on luxury items and on the other hand it pushes up production if invested in economic growth sectors. Thus in a developing economy, small savings should be encouraged and people should be attracted to save as much as they could for the overall benefit of the nation.

A beginning in this direction was made during the First World War period (1914-18). The Government of India introduced the postal cash certificates scheme. During the Second World War (1939-45), the Post

Office National Savings Certificates were floated by the Government of India in 1943. The important feature of the scheme was that these certificates were free from income-tax.

After Independence, for a concerted economic development of the country, economic planning was ushered in. As a result large financial resources were required to finance the various development schemes included in the Plans. The Government of India, therefore, launched a series of Small Savings Schemes with handsome rates of interest to attract even the investors of small means.

A brief mention of each of the schemes mooted at present is given below :

(1) *Post Office Savings Banks*—This is one of the most important agencies collecting the savings from the public especially from the semi-urban and rural areas, as there is no other agency which could take care of people's surplus money. Because of its wide spread network, this agency has still retained its usefulness in collecting savings from the public. An investor can open an account with smallest amount of rupees five. Withdrawal system was and is still very easy. Interest is paid at a rate of 5 per cent per annum at present. The limit of deposit for an individual account is Rs. 25,000 and for a joint account it is upto Rs. 50,000. There is no such limitation for the accounts operated by public institutions and societies.

(2) *Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme*—This is a monthly saving scheme. An amount in multiple of Rs. 5 subject to a maximum of Rs. 500 per month may be deposited by an investor for a period of five to fifteen years. The principal and the interest at compound rate of $6/4$ per cent is paid on maturity. Loan facilities upto 50 per cent of deposits are also available in this scheme after an account is operated uninterruptedly for a period of one year. The main attraction in this scheme is that the amounts invested in these accounts are allowed in rebate to an income-tax payer.

(3) *Five Year's Post Office Recurring Deposit Scheme*—This is only five year account which yields interest at rate of $9\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. There is provision of Insurance benefit in this scheme. If a person regularly deposits the amount for 24 months and if he dies thereafter, his heirs are entitled to draw the full amount as if he has paid his full amount for five years. The age of the depositer should be above 18 years but below 53 years.

(4) *Post Office Time Deposit Scheme*—In this scheme a deposit in multiple of Rs. 50 is to be made for a period of one, two, three and five years in a Post Office Savings Bank. Interest is paid at the rate ranging

from 8 to 10 per cent, according to the period of deposit. Any amount, individually or jointly can be invested. Interest earned on the deposits is liable to taxation on income. The societies and institutions are not permitted to invest in the scheme.

The following statement shows the gross collection made in the Gandhinagar district during the years 1970-71 to 1973-74 under the different schemes of Small Savings.

STATEMENT VI. 6

Small Savings

(RS. IN THOUSAND)

| Sl. No. | Name of the schemes/security | 1970-71 | 1971-72 | 1972-73 | 1974-75 |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1. | Post Office Savings Banks | 1,212 | 1,577 | 1,893 | 2,050 |
| 2. | Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme | 137 | 127 | 152 | 124 |
| 3. | Recurring Deposits | .. | 16 | 104 | 125 |
| 4. | Post Office Time Deposit Scheme | .. | 73 | 107 | 107 |
| 5. | Certificates | 30 | 127 | 112 | 82 |
| | Total | 1,379 | 1,920 | 2,368 | 2,488 |

The above statement shows that gross collection has increased over the period from Rs. 13,79,000 in 1970-71 to Rs. 24,88,000 in 1973-74. This indicated increased interest of the people in the various schemes of small savings. During the period of four years i.e., 1970-71 to 1973-74, in all Rs. 8,155,000 have been raised from the Gandhinagar district. In comparison to the area of the district and its population, the amount collected under small savings is considerable. The investment in post office savings banks appears to have steadily risen, while a fluctuating trend is discernible in other Government securities.

Financial Assistance to Industries

The industrial picture of India was far from satisfactory prior to Independence as the country was dominated by the foreign power. The country

was treated as the market for the inflow of finished products from Great Britain. The railways which were laid down in the country, apart from helping industrialisation of the area, encouraged export of the raw-materials from the country through the port towns. Not that entrepreneurial skill was lacking in the country but the diversification of industries could not take place due to a number of factors.

However, the Second World War served as an incentive to industries. After Independence, the existing dependence on foreign countries in respect of finished goods was to be ended. With this end in view the Government of India formulated a policy resolution styled the Industries (Regulation and Control) Act in 1948 under which the industrial policy of the country was outlined.

For a rapid industrialisation in the country provision of finance and of technical know-how is a *sine qua non*. Therefore the Government of India decided to encourage and streamline institutional finance. For increasing the technical know-how, technical schools, institutes, colleges and industrial research institutions were established in the country. The Industrial Finance Corporation was set up in 1948 for providing capital to large industries like mining, power, generation etc. Soon thereafter a score of others were established in the country for channelling private and foreign capital into industrial expansion. Besides this, the institutions established by the Government of India for providing capital, technical assistance, etc., to large, medium and small industries are: the National Industrial Development Corporation (1954), the Industrial Development Bank (1964), and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (1955).

The various State Governments established financial corporations in their respective States on the line of Industrial Finance Corporation. In Gujarat, the Gujarat State Financial Corporation (1960) was the first of such institutions in the field. Thereafter the Gujarat Small Industries Corporation (1962), the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (1962) and the Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation (1968) have been created in the State for speeding up industrial growth. The Gujarat Industrial Co-operative Bank set up in 1970 also provides financial assistance for industrial development in the State.

Because of its rural character, there is very little industrial development in the Gandhinagar district. The quantum of assistance is therefore also small. The following statement gives an idea about the assistance provided by the above institutions in the Gandhinagar district.

Financial Assistance to Industries

| Name of the Institution 1 | Type of Units assisted 2 | No. of Units assisted 3 | Quantum of assistance 4 |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Industrial Finance Corporation of India. | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| National Industrial Development Corporation. | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Industrial Development Bank | Road Transport, Food stuff, Non-metallic Mineral Produce, Plastic. | 14 | 6.74 lakhs (sanctioned) (Till 1974-75) |
| Gujarat State Financial Corporation | Food Industries Chemical and Ceramics, industries, Machinery Manufacturers, Road Transport and Others | 24 | 11.97 lakhs (sanctioned) |
| Gujarat Small Industries Corporation. | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation. | .. | .. | .. |
| Gujarat Industrial Co-operative Bank. | Nil | Nil | Nil |

CURRENCY AND COINAGE

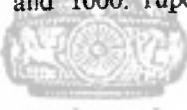
सत्यमेव जयते

Exact information about the coins current in the district during the ancient period is not available. The territory of Gandhinagar which is included in Gujarat was ruled by the Mauryas and the Guptas through their Governors. The Maitrak rulers, who succeeded, also ruled over a large part of the Gujarat mainland. So it is quite natural that the coins issued by these sovereigns were in circulation all over Gujarat. These coins *ipso facto* must have been current in the territory now known as the Gandhinagar district. Similarly the coins issued during the Mahomedan period, *i.e.*, of Gujarat Sultans and the Mughals were legal tender in this part of the State. Silver rupees and copper coins called *dams* issued by the Mughal emperors were exchanged freely in Gujarat. After the fall of Mughals, the Nawab and other kings in Gujarat assumed sovereign powers and struck their own coins. 'Shikai' coins introduced by the Mahomedan ruler of Ahmadabad were freely circulated in these areas. This currency continued upto the arrival of the British and their assuming supremacy. The British gradually introduced the Imperial currency in place of the native currency.

Dehgam and Kalol were formerly included in the Kadi prant of the former Baroda State. In the major portion of the Kadi prant, *Shikai* (*sicca*) currency was legal tender, but in the Kalol taluka *shikai* (*sicca*) currency was in use only in the official transactions. Because of its proximity to Ahmadabad, the market currency was British. In the Dehgam taluka, for the same reason, British currency prevailed in the market, while the salary of the State employees was calculated in the *babashahi* currency. Thus even when Dehgam and Kalol talukas were integral parts of the Baroda State, British currency was widely used. In the Ahmadabad district, *sicca* coins were in use till 1837 when the East India Company's rupee was introduced. The *sicca* coins were gradually withdrawn from circulation and were sent to the Bombay mint.

The year 1837 marked the actual beginning of the British currency of rupees, annas and pies. Thus it prevailed since the 19th century in the territories which now form the Gandhinagar district. After Independence in 1947, though the above system was continued for some time, the Imperial marks on them were replaced by inscribing the national emblem. In the old system there were coins of a pie, half paisa, paisa, 2 paise (*dhabu*), one anna, two anna, four anna, eight anna and a rupee. A rupee was equal to sixteen annas or sixty four paise or 192 pies i.e., an anna was equal to four paise of 12 pies. There were also currency notes of varying denominations i.e., 1, 2, 5, 10, 100 and 1000 rupees.

Decimal Coinage



This system of currency and coinage was not in consonance with the currency systems obtaining in major parts of the world, where decimal system was in vogue. Great difficulty was therefore experienced in day to day transactions as also in international trade. To overcome this difficulty, the Government of India introduced in April, 1957 a decimal system in which a rupee is divided into a hundred paise. Old coins were gradually withdrawn from the circulation. At present, the coins are issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 paise and one rupee. The currency notes are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 1,000 rupees.¹

In order to perpetuate the memory of certain national and international events, as well as to honour national leaders, special coins are brought out by the Government of India. Such coins were issued in the memory of late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, the Mahattam Gandhi Centenary series in 1969 and the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Series in 1970 and 1971. In the year 1972, to mark the Silver

1. The currency notes of Rs. 1,000 and above have been demonetised by Government of India with effect from January, 1978.

Jubilee of Independence, a special silver coin of Rs. ten was issued. The Development oriented series issued in 1973, 1974 and 1975 contained words for family planning, grow more food and equality, development peace etc. On some of these occasions, silver coins of ten, twenty and fifty rupees were also issued besides fifty paise, twenty paise and ten paise bits in other metals.

B—Trade and Commerce

The present Gandhinagar district comprises territories of the former Baroda State of Kalol and Dehgam talukas and Daskroi mahal of the Ahmadabad district. The former *Baroda State Gazetteer* (1923) describes export and import trade in the Kadi prant (Mahesana district) in the following manner.

"In fact, the province is open on all sides. Each taluka is connected with its neighbourhood by broad country cart tracks for conveyance of traffic. Owing to the opening of Rajputana Malwa Railway, and the branch railway opened by His Highness's Government, the old routes from the north have fallen into more or less complete disuse. The talukas of the Kadi district through which the Rajputana-Malwa Railway runs are Kalol, Kadi, Mehsana, Visnagar and Sidhpur, while Dehgam, Kadi, Vadnagar, Kheralu, Chanasma, Harij and Patan are all connected with the main line by branches. The traffic intended for the railway which formerly came from Patan to Unjha and Bhandu and to Mehsana from Visnagar, Vadnagar, Kheralu, Vijapur and Vadavli, now goes direct from each place. The existing lines have effected a great change in the traffic along the roads of this district, and wool, cotton, clarified butter and flocks of sheep from Marwad which used to pass through Sidhpur and other talukas are now transported by rail. Routes to Kathiawad, Marwad, Idar and Prantij to Agra, Ajmer, and Delhi run through this division."¹

From the Kalol taluka, cotton, castor-oil and seeds, rapeseed and wheat were exported, and groceries, cloth, sugar, molasses, iron, brass and copper pots were imported.

On account of development of rail and road transport facilities, the trade has become more diversified. Former barriers to the development of trade such as transit dues have been done away with and uniform rates have been introduced. The country was unified after Independence. This has led to much expansion of trade in terms of inter-state trade. Markets of adjoining states have been brought nearer by a net-work of roads.

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLERKE]A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. I, (1923), pp. 385-386

At present, imports in the district consist of the following categories. The Gandhinagar district is entirely rural and all its requirements are to a large extent, met from purchases from Ahmadabad. As Ahmadabad is very close to the Gandhinagar district, most of the items such as cereals especially wheat and rice, pulses, salt, sugar, tea, stationery, readymade garments of cotton, wool, hosiery, medicines, cutlery, etc., are brought from here. Pulses like *Tur dal* are imported from Ahmadabad, Unjha, Padra (Vadodara district) Vasad (Kheda district), Dohad and Godhra (Panchmahals district). *Mug* are brought from Bhabhar in Banas Kantha district and from Harij in the Mahesana district, whereas *mugdal* is imported from Ahmadabad. Fruits and dry-fruits, etc., are brought from Ahmadabad, Vadodara and Surat.

Cotton, tobacco, vegetables, etc., are transported to the other parts of the district and to Ahmadabad.

TRADE CENTRES

Regulated Markets

Historical Background for Establishment of Regulated Markets—In the past, an Indian agriculturist almost inherited the ancestral debt and left legacy for his successors on account of fact that he including many of his brethren derived livelihood from small fragmented pieces of land, which were often mortgaged to a local *shahukar*. The farmer in his traditional ignorance, became an easy prey to the malpractices, avarice and usury of the money-lender, for his recalcitrant borrowings for social occasions or farm production. As if this was not enough, the Great Depression of 1929 A. D. gave a further slashing to his income because prices of farm produce declined steeply and steadily all over the world following the stock market crash in the United States of America. The Indian farmer was not excluded from the worst effects of this world wide slump.

To help the Indian farmer in such an unfortunate position, the Royal Commission on Agriculture was appointed in 1928 A. D. It suggested *inter alia*, the establishment of regulated markets at different places to give the farmers a fair deal in respect of sale, weight, reasonable market charges, etc.

In the meantime, the Government of Bombay enacted the Bombay Agricultural Produce Markets Act in 1939. This legislation was enforced in the Bombay Province. The Governments of the princely State areas also quickly followed suit. However, no regulated market was established in the areas presently covered in the Gandhinagar district. The progress of establishment of regulated markets in this district appears to be

slow because even after the formation of Gujarat State from May, 1960 and enactment of the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act in the year 1963, no regulated market came up in the Gandhinagar district till the year 1974. A regulated market named the Gandhinagar Agriculture Produce Market Committee was established at Randheja.¹ It covers the villages of the Ahmadabad city taluka, the Daskroi mahal, the Dehgam taluka of the Ahmadabad district and the Kalol taluka of the Mahesana district, practically the whole of the Gandhinagar district.

The main market yard is located at Randheja and a sub-yard has been established at Kalol.

This regulated market is looked after by 17 members market committee which has been constituted in accordance with provisions of the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963. The Committee represents agriculturists, traders, co-operative societies, and nominees of the Government.

In this market, traders have erected shops at their own cost. Other facilities such as light, water and storage are given to the sellers. The actual functioning of market has not commenced as the market was established only a year back.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale trade is generally concentrated in the large towns and cities and meets the needs of the retailers the wholesalers and the general public. The movement of goods in and outside this district is generally carried out by motor trucks because it is a cheaper and readily available mode of transport. Gandhinagar district is mainly agricultural and as such, the trade is mainly confined to agricultural produce, besides a few consumer goods. In the capital town, the commodities sold are generally different from those in the rest of the district. There are also inter-trade connections between the capital town and the rest of the district.

The large markets at Ahmadabad and Kalol are nearer to the places in Gandhinagar and as such most of the purchases by traders and the public are made from these large places. Moreover this one taluka district is composed of rural areas only and the capital township of Gandhinagar will take time to develop as a full-fledged city. There is therefore not much of wholesale trade in Gandhinagar district, but there are semi-urban and rural markets in the district. Their brief description is given elsewhere in this chapter.

¹ Government of Gujarat's order No. GH-APAL-1170-A-6380, dated 4th July, 1974.

Retail Trade

Retail trade is generally distributed in the following branches; (i) grocery shops selling cereals, pulses, spices, *gur*, groundnut and sesamum, oil, *ghee*, tea, coffee, condiments, dry fruits, baking soda, menthol crystals, saffron, catechu, *agarbatti*, etc., (ii) *pan-bidi* and tobacco shops, which are generally one man establishments sell *pan* (betel leaves), *bidi*, cigarettes, cigars, match boxes, etc., (iii) cloth and hosiery shops which deal in all kinds of textiles, in cotton, woollen, silk, and synthetic fibres and other super varieties of cloth and having a wide range of clothing such as shirting, coating, *sarees*, *dhoties*, *malmal*, *chihnt*, voils and hosiery articles of all sorts and varieties, (iv) fuel and charcoal shops, (v) stationery and hosiery shops, (vi) fruits and vegetables shops, (vii) shops selling household utensils of brass, copper, aluminium, german, silver, and stainless steel, (viii) hardware and building materials, (ix) leather goods and footwear.

Number of Traders

The Census of 1971 has published data about the distribution of establishments into 3 categories, viz., (1) manufacturing, processing and repairing establishments, (2) trade or business establishments and (3) other establishments. The data about the number of persons employed in these types of establishments are also given by the Census. This distribution of establishments had been made for the first time and helps to show the nature of the establishments and the extent of employment provided. These data are, therefore, very vital in giving an idea about the economic development of the district.

So far as trade and business establishments are concerned, there were 1,593 such establishments or 0.64 per cent of the total establishments in the State. These establishments engaged 2,502 persons or 0.54 per cent of those employed in all such establishments in the State. The district enjoys the 18th rank among the districts of the State, considering both the number of establishments and the persons employed.

The following table shows the number of the persons engaged in trading profession.

| Sl. No. | Categories 2 | Establishment 3 | Persons Employed (1971) 4 |
|------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Wholesale Trade | 74 | 241 |
| 2. | Retail Trade | 1,225 | 1,598 |
| 3. | Finance, Insurance, Real estate, etc... .. | 48 | 201 |
| 4. | Trade and Commerce Miscellaneous | 246 | 462 |
| | Total | 1,593 | 2,502 |

Sources :

District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I., p. 88.

The table shows that retail trade establishments accounted for 76.90 per cent and provided employment to 63.87 per cent of the total workers engaged in trade and commerce in the district. This is as it should be because retail trade establishments are spread over almost in every village in the districts whereas wholesale trade and other financial concerns are restricted to semi-urban areas of the district.¹

FAIRS AND RURAL MARKETS

Fairs

Fairs are generally associated with deities, saints, religious festivals and local customs. The rural and tribal folk have some fascination for them on account of their pageantry. To them they are the only venues for maintaining social and cultural contacts alongwith recreation. Formerly, fairs also served as market places and enabled the village people to purchase articles of daily consumption. This economic significance has receded into the background owing to the availability of the commodities of daily use wherever and whenever needed. Because of the development of quick means of communications, markets have sprung up in almost all the villages and towns. Further, on account of spread of education, decreasing influence of religion among the educated people, and alternative modes of recreation and entertainment at home have also made fairs less attractive than before. However, the people of this district flock together in large numbers to attend the fairs because there is considerable population of socially, economically and educationally backward people in this district.

From the view-point of trade and commerce, articles of common consumption such as hot and cold drinks, *pan-bidi* and cigarettes, bangles, cheap ornaments, hosiery, etc., are brought to these fairs for both display and sale in shops or booths specially erected for the purpose at the site of the fairs. There is considerable trade in different commodities, fetching handsome gains to the dealers.

In all 12 fairs are held in this district at different places and at different time of the year. Janmashtami fair is held at five places in the district, viz., Dabholia, Prantiya, Dolarana, Vasana, Mahudara and Vasan. However, large attendance is noticed at the Vardayini Mata fair at Rupal, the Garba fair at Randheja and the Janmashtami fair at Vasan. This is because of the religious mindedness of the rural folk of Gandhinagar which is totally a rural district.

1. Census of India 1971, Gujarat, Vol. V, *Establishments Reports*, Part III-A, pp. 35-36.

STATEMENT VI.7
Fairs and Festivals

| Sl. No. | Village/Place where held | Name/Occasion of fair or festival | Date of fair/festival | Estimated con- gregation/Number of participants | Nearest Railway station and distance in km. whether connected by bus services |
|---------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Koba | Gandhi fair | Magh Vad 14 (February) | 500-1,000 | Sabarmati 8 km., Bus. |
| 2. | Prantiya | Balanshah Pir Urs | Rajab 14 | 800 | Dabhoda 3 km., Bus. |
| 3. | Dabhoda | Hanumanji fair, Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 800 | Rly. Stn. Bus. |
| 4. | Prantiya | Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 600 | Dabhoda 3 km. Bus. |
| 5. | Dolatana Vasana | Boriya Mahadev fair, Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 400 | Dabhoda 16 km. |
| 6. | Chhatla | Dasharath Mahadev fair | Ashvin Sud 15 (October) | 400 | Dehgam 16 km., Bus. |
| 7. | Alampur | Ambaji mata fair | Ashvin Sud 5 (October) | 200 | Dabhoda 9 1/2 km. |
| 8. | Mahudara | Ramji fair, Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 200 | Dabhoda 6 1/2 km. |
| 9. | Rupal | Vardayini Mata Palli fair | Ashvin Sud 9 (October) | 25,000-30,000 | Santpur 3 km., Bus |
| 10. | Vasan | Janmashtami | Shrawan Vad 8 (August) | 5,000 | Rly. Stn. |
| 11. | Randheja | Garba fair | Ashvin Sud 14 (October) | 7,000 | Rly. Stn. Bus. |
| 12. | Randesan | Dholeshwar Mahadev fair, Mahashivratri | Magh Vad 14 (February) | 200 | Khodiar, 12 1/2 km, Bus. |

Source : *District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar District, Part X-C-I*, p. 30.
 Details about the religious, social aspects of fairs are given in the Chapter III-People of this Gazetteer.

Rural Market

Randheja, Unava, Pethapur, Shertha and Kolwada are some of the important semi-urban and rural markets in this district. Unava and Randheja are famous for trade in tobacco, whereas Kolwada and Shertha are known for trade in vegetables and chillies. At Dolarana-Vasana production and sale of handloom cloth is carried on a significant scale. Unava village is an important centre for trade in tobacco, cotton, grains, vegetables, etc. Many persons from the surrounding villages come here for purchases. Out of 50 traders in the Gandhinagar township 15 are to some extent wholesalers. There are also tobacco processing units and brick kilns.

Pethapur is famous for manufacture and trade in printed cloth (*bandhani*), lock, knives and nut-crackers. Tiles are manufactured and sold at Vasana whereas Dantali village is known for smoking pipes (*hukkas*).

Randheja is an important centre for tobacco. This centre can be developed as production and trading centre by providing the required facilities. There are about 10 retail shops in each sector at Gandhinagar which sell consumer goods, medicines etc. The villagers from the neighbouring areas find ready market for their articles like vegetables, fruits, milk, eggs, etc., in the capital town.

To some extent, co-operative stores have also entered trade in essential goods. There are 4 consumer's co-operative stores in Gandhinagar and 3 in villages.¹

FAIR PRICE SHOPS

The prices of essential commodities have steadily and spirally risen since the World War II. On account of scarcity of essential commodities, rationing had to be introduced in the country.

The present Gandhinagar district comprises territories of the former Baroda State of Kalol and Dehgam talukas and Daskroi mahal and City Taluka of the Ahmadabad district. The goods produced in Baroda State area were not allowed to be transported in the British territory and vice versa. There was therefore artificial scarcity of essential consumable goods in these areas. The Baroda State, therefore, promulgated rationing and framed rules prohibiting profiteering, hoarding and black-marketing. A separate Civil Supplies Department was created in the State and local committees were appointed to remove the difficulties

1. Dona Bank, *Report of Survey of Banking Potentiality in Gandhinagar District of Gujarat State*.

experienced by the public in the distribution of controlled commodities. Shops for selling wheat, rice, *jowar*, sugar, kerosene, *gur*, cloth, etc., were opened in different localities and these commodities were sold at controlled rates as fixed by the Government. The middle class people and those in lower strata were benefitted by the scheme of rationing. The prices were subsidised and were, therefore, lower than the current prices. These measures provided relief to the public at large.

After Independence, rationing was relaxed for some time in 1954 following good harvest, but this position did not last long. On account of rapid growth of population, the increase in output did not keep pace with the demand. This resulted in spiralling of prices of all the commodities particularly of the essential commodities of consumption like wheat, rice, *jowar*, *bajri*, sugar, *gur*, kerosene, etc. Further, Planning was introduced in the country for achieving a balanced growth of the economy of the country. Though Independence was achieved, economic freedom was far away and systematic efforts had to be made to put the economy on an even keel. But the investments made in the various sectors did not yield consumer goods in sufficient quantities with the result that there was scarcity of consumer goods. This factor also led to price rise in the country.

Unfortunately, the worst effects of inflation were generally borne by the weaker sections of the population, namely, middle class people and labourers as they could not buy essential commodities from their meagre incomes. On account of World War II and of post-war planning, the incomes of farmers had increased, so did their retention capacities for bargain and for getting profits from deferred sales of agricultural commodities. The Government, therefore, introduced rationing and opened fair price shops for the low income group people and the poor. The concept of fair price shop or authorised grain shops is a phenomenon of the post-War period, i. e., of recent past.

At present, there are 54 fair price shops in the district. Besides this, there are 26 co-operative societies and 28 private shops authorised by Government for selling wheat, rice, sugar, cloth and groundnut oil at prices determined by Government. These prices are generally lower than the ruling market prices. Further, distribution of these essential items is made on the basis of family ration cards issued by the Government, through its Civil Supplies Department. These cards are issued strictly according to the income of the head of the family and are registered at the nearby fair price shop. Those paying Income-tax are debarred from purchasing these commodities except sugar and kerosene on their ration cards. During last two years, 1973-74 and 1974-75, the following quantities of wheat, rice and milo have been distributed to the poor and the middle class families. The details of transactions are as under :

| Year 1 | | Wheat (Tonnes) 2 | Rice (Tonnes) 3 | Milo (Tonnes) 4 | Estimated Value Rs. 5 |
|-----------|----|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1973-74 | .. | 2,078 | 643 | 360 | 32,57,635 |
| 1974-75 | .. | 2,210 | 695 | 210 | 41,08,507 |

Source :

The Mamlatdar, Gandhinagar.

The number of cards registered at the fair price shops in 1974-75 was 44,312 and the population covered came to 2,37,748. Arrangements have been made to distribute essential commodities at reasonable rates. The co-operative purchase and sale union also distributes sugar, wheat, fertilisers, cloth, oil engines, seeds, etc., at reasonable rates. In order that the distribution of sugar is made speedily at uniform rates throughout the taluka, arrangements have been made through co-operative purchase and sale union. The quantity of sugar and oil sold to the customers is indicated below:

| Year 1 | | Quantity of sugar (Tonnes) 2 | Oil (in pack tins) 3 |
|-----------|----|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1973-74 | .. | 1,310 | 12,550 |
| 1974-75 | .. | 1,330 | 9,350 |
| 1975-76 | .. | 675 | 2,730 |

Source :

The Mamlatdar, Gandhinagar.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

Gandhinagar district is newly constituted and the entire area is rural and the economy of the district is agriculture oriented. There is therefore not much of trade and commerce in the district. Further, there are no large-scale industries in the district. So, the existence of a chamber of commerce or of any merchants' association, industrial association or body is unthinkable in such a situation.

However, possibilities of merchants being members of one or the other association at Ahmadabad cannot be ruled out as it is contiguous to the Gandhinagar district.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Gandhinagar district has villages of the Kalol and Dehgam talukas of former Kadi prant under the Gaekwad and the City and Daskroi talukas of the present Ahmadabad district. In the areas, the following weights and measures were in vogue. Foodgrains, vegetables, tea, coffee, oil, etc., were weighed in *man*, *seer*, *achchher*, *pasher* and other smaller denominations. Four *pashers* made one *seer* and forty *seers* were equal to one *man*.

(maund). Some local terms for ten *seers* like *folu* and for fifteen *mans*, *galli* were also used by people. Precious metals like gold and silver were weighed in *tola*, *gadians* (1/2 Total), *val*, *rati* etc.

So far as length measures were concerned unit of *var*, *gaj*, *foot*, *inch*, etc., were in use. Three feet were equal to one *var* and two feet were equal to one *gaj*. Besides, *foot*, *inch* there was also measure of *tasu* being used by the people. People in general including the illiterate public used to make measurement by the country unit of *hath*, *vent*, etc. *Saree*, *dhoti*, long cloth etc., were measured by *hath* and *vent*. The land measures were '*guntha* and *vigha*'. For, long distance in place of mile, unit of 'gau' ($1\frac{1}{2}$ mile) was in force.

These weights and measures were used after Independence also. In majority of countries of the World, the decimal system of weights and measures was in vogue. The Government of India, therefore, introduced the Metric Weights and Measures throughout the country for simplifying conversion and calculation. Under this system, the weights and measures were reduced to a multiple of ten. In Gujarat, the use of the metric measures has been made compulsory throughout the State from April, 1962. The District Industries Officer, Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar districts and the Regional Deputy Commissioner of Industries, Ahmadabad, are responsible for the implementation of weights and measures in these districts. The salient features of the system are set out below:

- (1) Length is measured in metres instead of in yards.
1 metre = 1.09 yards.
- (2) Distance is measured in kilometers instead of in miles.
1 km. = 0.62 miles
- (3) Weight is measured into kilograms instead of in pounds (*lbs.*) or *seer*, 1 kg. = 2.2 *lbs.* or 1.07 *seer* and quintal instead of a maund,
1 quintal = 5.38 mds.
- (4) Area of land is measured in hectares instead of in acres.
1 hectare = 2.47 acres.
- (5) Weightment in *tolas* has been replaced by grams, 1 gram which is one thousandth part of a kilogram is equal to 0.086 *tolas*.
- (6) Unit for valuable stone is in carats.
1 carat = one-fifth of the gram = 0.017 *tola*.

At present, the use of all the old weights and measures has been banned throughout the State. The Inspector of Weights and Measures strictly enforces the rules and any breach of the Act is punishable under the rules.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

INTRODUCTORY

The Gandhinagar district is still in its infancy though it was conceived as the capital of the State on the eve of bifurcation of the former Bombay State. For economic development of a region, transport facilities play a decisive role. In comparision to the area of the district, the provision of transport facilities has been more or less, adequate as the district is served by a network of roads and railways. The Gandhinagar district shares the boundary with Mahesana on one side and Ahmadabad on the other. Thus, the benefit of roads and railways passing through these districts is invariably available to the Gandhinagar territory. As the Gandhinagar township is hardly 30 km., away from Ahmadabad, the main industrial and commercial centre, a periphery of roads has been built in the Gandhinagar district on a priority basis. Inter-sectoral roads in the township are so built as to join them with the highway, just 2 furlongs away. Another landmark in history of transport facilities of the district is the broadgauge railway line linking Gandhinagar district with Ahmadabad thus bringing Gandhinagar on the railway map of the country. Through this broad-gauge connection, the change-over at Ahmadabad will be eliminated and passengers would be able to turnover on broadgauge line direct from Gandhinagar to Bombay and to other centres of the country. Air facilities are provided by the Ahmadabad aerodrome, which is not very far from Gandhinagar, as it is linked by an express highway from Kobi up to aerodrome. Thus, out of four types of transport, i.e., rail, water, road and air, the district has 3 types of transport facilities, namely, air, land and rail. The following pages describe in detail each type of transport and communications facilities available in the district at present.

OLD TIME TRADE ROUTES

Gandhinagar district comprises villages of the districts of Mahesana and Ahmadabad. There existed old time tracks for the movement of both persons and goods through bullock carts, camels, etc., in good old days. The former *Baroda State Gazetteer* (1923) states that such unmetalled roads existed between : (1) Dehgam to Sadra, (ii) Dehgam to Prantij and Idar, (iii) Dehgam to Kadi and Pethapur, and (iv) Kalol and Ahmadabad.

Further the same Gazetteer mentions that the main fair weather road was from Ahmadabad to Prantij and thence to Idar passing through the

Dehgam taluka for a length of about $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Another fair weather road from Ahmadabad to Modasa also passed through Dehgam taluka for 15 miles.

ROADS

No information about the position of the roads in the district before Independence, or at the time of formation of the Gujarat State as also till 1964, when the district was formed, is available, but it can be surmised that Pethapur, Randheja, Rupal, Unvarsad, Adalaj, etc., were connected by fair weather roads. In the post-Independence era large amounts were spent in the Five Year Plans for the construction of new roads and improvement of the existing roads. It may, therefore, be rightly presumed that some roads might have also been constructed in the Dehgam taluka, the Daskroi taluka, City taluka and the Kalol taluka, from which the Gandhinagar district is carved out. After the formation of the district, roads have been constructed not only connecting the capital town with Ahmadabad but also with the important centres in the district. In 1969-70, when the capital city began to throb with activity, the total length of the roads in the district was 122 km., of which 77 km., had asphalt surface, 21 km., had water bound macadam surface and remaining 24 km., were with nurram and earthen surface. Out of 75 villages, 38 villages were connected by *pucca* roads.

On account of acceleration in the road construction programme following a decision to develop the capital town speedily, the length of roads increased from 122 km., in 1970 to 265 km., in 1972. Of these 150 km., were metalled roads and 115 km., were unmetalled.

The total length of the roads increased to 280.18 km., in 1975. Their details are shown below :

Roads in Gandhinagar District, 1975

| Sl. No. | Category of the Road 2 | Length Metalled (Km.) 3 | Length Unmetalled (Km.) 4 | Total Length (Km.) 5 |
|-----------------|---|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | | | | |
| 1. | National Highways .. | .. 42.10 | .. | 42.10* |
| 2. | State Highways and Express Highways .. | 38.97 (30.52 Express Highway State Highways) | .. 8.45 | 38.97 |
| 3. | Major District Roads .. | .. 38.20 | .. | 38.20 |
| 4. | Other District Roads .. | .. 53.60 | 45.60 | 99.20 |
| 5. | Village Roads .. | .. 15.00 | 46.71 | 61.71 |
| Total .. | | 187.87 | 92.31 | 280.18 |

*12 km., length of Ahmadabad-Abu Road is considered as National Highway.

Source :

Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Ahmadabad and the Executive
Engineer, Capital Division No. 1, Gandhinagar.

Despite this progress many villages in the district are still not connected with the capital town. For the rapid development of the roads, the State Government has drawn up, "20-Year Road Development Plan" (1961-81) on the basis of principles laid down in the All India Road Development Plan.

20-YEAR ROAD DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND GUJARAT

Gujarat State entered the 20-Year Road Development Plan period with a deficit of 42 per cent with reference to the Nagpur Plan, 1943. The new plan envisages a target of 57,628 km., of roads in the whole State as on 31st March, 1981. The objectives of the new plan are as under: (i) To provide 32 km., of roads per 100 sq. km., of area on an average, and (ii) to bring every village (a) in a developed and agricultural area, within 6 km., of a metalled road and 2 km., of any road, (b) in a semi-developed area within 12 km., of a metalled road and 4 km., of any road; and (c) in an undeveloped and uncultivable area within 18 km., of a metalled road and 7.5 km., of any road.

The all-India target under this plan is 10.58 lakhs km., by the end of 1980-81. Thus only 49 per cent of new roads will have to be constructed for the country as a whole during 1961-81, but when Gujarat State embarked on the new road plan in 1961, it already had a deficit of 42 per cent, as compared to the Nagpur Plan. Thus to catch up with the new road target, greater efforts are required to be put into action.

In Gandhinagar district the total length of the roads in 1975 was 280 km. As against this the target set for the district in 20-Year Road Development Plan is 384.71 km. It is expected that due to the rapid development of roads in the district, this target will be easily achieved.

A brief description of the important highways in the district is given below.

National Highway (N. H. I)

National Highways are the main highways serving predominantly national, as distinct from State purposes and run through the length and breadth of India connecting major ports, foreign highways, capitals of States and strategic routes of importance for the defence of the country. These are maintained by the State Public Works Department from the Central Government funds. They are generally tar roads with a minimum width of 38 feet or 11.58 metres. In the Gandhinagar district, the total length of the National Highways was 42.10 km., which also includes a length of 12 km., of the Ahmadabad-Kalol-Abu. State Highway.

(1) *The Ahmadabad-Delhi (N. H.)*—This is a part of National Highway No. 8. Running from Ahmadabad to Delhi, the road enters the Gandhinagar district near Nana Chiloda.

After passing through Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar districts, the road traverses the Sabarkantha district, and there after enters the adjoining State of Rajasthan and runs further upto Delhi and beyond. The length of the road in the district is 30.10 km., with a black topped surface. The portion of the National Highway passing through this district is fully bridged and hence motorable all round the year. This is one of the most important roads passing through the district and it connects the district with important places in and outside the State.

(2) *The Ahmadabad-Kalol-Abu Road*—This is also another important Highway passing through the district. It is upgraded to National Highway Standard. It starts from Ahmadabad and enters the Gandhinagar district near village Motera and after leaving Shertha village of this district, enters Kalol taluka of Mahesana district and runs further upto Abu in the adjoining State of Rajasthan. The total length of the road in the district is 12 km., with black topped surface-motorable during the whole year. The road passes through Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Mahesana and Banas-kantha districts in the State. It links Gandhinagar district with one of the beautiful hill stations in the country, viz., Mt. Abu,

State Highways

The State Highways (S. H.) have been defined as all other main, trunk or arterial roads of a State connecting with National or State Highways of adjacent States, district headquarters and important cities within the State and serving as main arteries of traffic to and from the district roads. These roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department. They have a tar surface and a minimum width of 32 feet or 9.75 metres and are completely motorable throughout the year, except at those places having causeways or submersible bridges, where traffic may be, at times, interrupted in monsoon. The State Highways are usually connected with National Highways.

(3) *The Naroda-Dehgam-Hansol Road (S. H.)*—This State Highway starts from Naroda near Ahmadabad city and enters the Gandhinagar district near village Raipur. After leaving Gandhinagar district, it enters the Dehgam taluka of the Ahmadabad district and runs further upto Hansol. It also crosses the bridge on the river Khari, near village Raipur. The length of the road in the district is 8.45 km., with a black topped surface and motorable in all the seasons.

Besides these National and State Highways, there are certain Express Highways of the State Highway category joining the capital township with National and State Highways. They are: (1) Gandhinagar-Chiloda Road; joining Gandhinagar with Ahmadabad-Delhi National Highway No. 8, the road crosses Sabarmati river near village Borij, where a major bridge is being constructed. The length of this portion of the road is 6 km., which has a black topped surface, (2) Gandhinagar-Khodiar Road: This is also an important State Highway passing through the district. It links the capital town with Khodiar railway station. The total length of the road from Gandhinagar to Khodiar is 8.72 km, with a black topped surface. From Khodiar, a road has been constructed upto Sarkhej, where it joins Ahmadabad-Bagodara Road. This is a very important road linking Gandhinagar with Saurashtra. It runs outside the city limits of Ahmadabad. The total length from Khodiar to Sarkhej is 21.18 km., with a black topped surface. Another important Express Highways is Ahmadabad-Koba-Gandhinagar road with a total length of 11.80 km. It also links Gandhinagar with Ahmadabad. The road connects the Ahmadabad near Sabarmati where it also meets Ahmadabad-Kalol-Mahesana-Abu road.

In order to have a direct approach to Ahmadabad aerodrome, an Express Highway has also been constructed from Koba Junction to Ahmadabad aerodrome via Hansol. The road crosses the river Sabarmati near Hansol, where it is proposed to construct a bridge. This road will also provide shortest link between Gandhinagar and Sardarnagar, Naroda, Shahibag and Ahmadabad cantonment area of Ahmadabad district.

Thus it is seen that the newly built capital is well connected with the important places in the district, State and the Country.

Major District Roads (M.D.R.)

The Major District Roads are roughly of the same specifications as the State Highways with this difference that their minimum width is 24 feet or 7.32 metres. They connect important marketing centres with railways, State Highways and National Highways.

The total length of the Major district Roads in the district at present is 38.20 km. These are metalled roads. Their details are given below:

| Sl. No. 1 | Name of the Road 2 | Length Metalled Km. 3 |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Pethapur-Randheja | .. 5.80 |
| 2. | Kalol-Gandhinagar-Balva-Mansa (From Gandhinagar to Mansa) | .. 18.50 |
| 3. | Randheja-Dhamasana | .. 10.30 |
| 4. | Chiloda-Dehgum | .. 3.60 |

Other District Roads

The Other District Roads are also of the same type as the Major District Roads but they are subject to frequent interruptions of traffic during the rainy season.

The total length of Other District Roads in the district is 99.20 km. Of these 53.60 km., have metalled surface and remaining 45.60 km., have unmetalled surface.

Village Roads

The Village Roads are generally unmetalled approach roads from the main roads to villages. The total length of the village roads in the district is 61.71 km. Of these 15 km., have metalled surface and remaining have unmetalled surface.

VEHICLES AND CONVEYANCE

Beasts of Burden--There are certain beasts which are used for carrying goods and passengers from one place to another, e.g., horses, ponies, camels, etc. Their number according to the Livestock Census, 1972, was as follows: bullocks (12,986), horses and ponies (99), mules (9), donkeys (1,241), and camels (847).¹ As the district is mainly agricultural, the number of bullocks is the highest. On account of construction of capital township at Gandhinagar, donkeys were inducted for doing earth work and carrying, bricks, cement, sand, etc.

Bullock Carts--Despite growth of rail and road transport, bullock carts still retain their importance in the village economy which is primarily agricultural, for transport of both men and material from one place to another. The Gandhinagar district, with the exception of the Gandhinagar town, is entirely rural. Bullock carts are, therefore, very important, as means of communication. There were in all 3,241 bullock carts in the district in 1973-74.

Other Vehicles--Though districtwise information about the automobile vehicles is not available from the Regional Transport Office, it can be definitely said that Gandhinagar, being the State capital, possesses a number of cars and jeeps being used by officials of Government and Ministers. Auto-rickshaws are found in Gandhinagar and Pethapur. Scooters are also used by Government servants and others. Trucks are found in the district for transporting goods from place to place. Similarly there were 193 tractors (as on 31st December, 1972) in the district for agricultural operations. In

1. Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gandhinagar.

the absence of registration, it is difficult to ascertain the exact number of bicycles in the district. Being the cheapest vehicle, it is used by a majority of the middle and lower class people.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Position before Independence—Prior to Independence and the nationalisation of the road transport, buses were run by private operators. In this connection the following details will throw light on the services provided by these contractors to the travellers for going from one destination to another. In the areas of the present Gandhinagar district, buses used to ply on the following routes¹:

- (1) Randheja-Pethapur, (2) Sardhav-Moti Adraj, (3) Rupal-Serisa via Kalol, (4) Rupal-Ahmadabad, (5) Pethapur-Rupal via Randheja, (6) Sardhav-Pethapur (7) Unvarsad-Shertha, (8) Unvarsad-Khodiar, (9) Unvarsad-Ahmadabad; and (10) Unvarsad-Ahmadabad (*via* Vavol).

Their details are as follows :

The credit for introducing automobile vehicle for convenience of travelling public in the present Gandhinagar district goes to a Parsi gentleman Shri Homi, who started service on the Pethapur-Randheja route in the early part of the present (20th) century. His buses had wooden wheels, which were subsequently replaced by rubber tyres. Sardar Jivansingh Vaghela secured permission in 1923 from the former Pethapur State to operate bus service on this route. He first used a taxi and later on in partnership with M/s. Jagannath Motilal, Hargovandas Kalidas and Revashankar Shivram Shukla introduced bus service between Pethapur-Randheja and Randheja-Rupal. Shri Ghanimiyा also operated buses on Pethapur-Randheja route for sometime. Shri Chhabildas Shamaldas of Sardhav started motor or bus service from Sardhav to Mota Adraj railway station and Sheth Hargovindas of Rupal started service between Rupal and Serisa *via* Kalol and between Rupal to Kalol. Sarvashri Kirpasankar Bholanath Dave and Manilal Kalidas Shukla operated bus on the Rupal and Kalol route, but it was subsequently closed. Shri Ranchhoddas Kalidas Patel of Unvarsad started buses in 1942 from Unvarsad to Shertha, and from Unvarsad to Khodiar and Ahmadabad. These buses were mostly operated in dry season, because the roads were unmetalled. These services also connected some centres of Gandhinagar district with both Kalol and Ahmadabad prior to Independence.

The progress achieved after the formation of Gandhinagar district is reviewed below:

1 This information is supplied by the knowledgeable persons of the district.

Transport and communications play a very important role in the socio-economic development of a region. The Gandhinagar district was carved-out only from the year 1964 out of the territories of the Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts. Upto 1959 passenger buses were operated by the Bombay State Road Transport Corporation, in those districts and thereafter by Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation. It was necessary to link up the newly built up Gandhinagar township, which was made the capital of the State, by net-work of the transport services. As a sequel to this, operations of direct bus service between Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar town were commenced from December, 1969 initially with five scheduled trips on this route. The Ahmadabad depot of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation started these services to and from Gandhinagar. After Sachivalaya (Secretariat) was shifted from Ahmadabad to Gandhinagar in 1970, internal services were started in the Gandhinagar town and the frequency of services between Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad was also increased. Hence operations of bus services between Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad and within the Gandhinagar township were increased to 30 schedules operated on 32 routes involving 713 km., of route length as on 31st March, 1971. According to 1971 Census 42 villages of the Gandhinagar taluka were directly served by the buses throughout the year and 24 villages were served only during the fair season.

Due to this expansion, a separate depot was opened at Gandhinagar from November, 1972 and operations were then transferred to the Gandhinagar depot from the Ahmadabad depot.

Since 1969, there has been a continuous expansion of bus facilities in the district. This will be evidence from the following table.

State Transport Operations

| Sl. No. | Particulars (as on 31st March) | 1969 3 | 1970 4 | 1971 5 | 1972 6 | 1973 7 | 1974 8 |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | No. of routes | 1 | 1 | 32 | 30 | 30 | 36 |
| 2. | Route km. | 35.04 | 35.04 | 713.02 | 743.90 | 746.48 | 930.37 |
| 3. | Average Scheduled run | 5 | 5 | 30 | 31 | 34 | 40 |
| 4. | Vehicles held | 5 | 5 | 34 | 36 | 41 | 52 |
| 5. | Passengers travelled per day | 755 | 750 | 5,419 | 9,752 | 12,994 | 10,219 |

Source :
General Manager, Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation, Ahmadabad.

The progress achieved in the road transport services in the Gandhinagar district will be evident from the fact that 64 villages, covering 95.5 per cent of the population of the district, are directly served by the buses operated by the Corporation and for the remaining 12 villages, the nearest bus stop is within a distance of three km. This is due to the fact that the areas of the present Gandhinagar district belonged to the Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts prior to 1964. These areas were served by state transport bus services as early as 1949. Besides Ahmadabad, the State capital Gandhinagar is directly linked by bus services to important places in the State such as Vadodara, Dakor, Palanpur, Modasa, Kadi, Kalol, Idar, Mansa, Dharoi, Mahudi, Unava, Dehgam, etc.

Here a unique feature of bus service between Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar deserves special mention. Regular state transport buses ply between Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad Central Bus Station. The service terminates at Government Press-Gandhinagar. The first bus for Gandhinagar leaves Ahmadabad in the early hours of morning at about 5.45 a.m. and the last bus at 00.45 hour at midnight. Similarly the first bus for Ahmadabad from Gandhinagar starts at 4.45 a.m. and the last at 23.15 hours. The regular bus at an interval of every 15 to 20 minutes is available to passengers between Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar throughout the day. Thus we can see that the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation helps in changing faces of the countryside by developing trade and commerce, industries and educational institutions in the places served by it besides serving the people by providing easy and comfortable journeys to and from destinations.

It thus helps enlarge the social, political and economic spectrum.

RAILWAYS

Gandhinagar district is at present served by the following three metre gauge railway lines :

- (1) Ahmadabad-Ajmer-Bandikui-Delhi.
- (2) Ahmadabad-Himatnagar-Khedbrahma.
- (3) Kalol-Vijapur-Ambliyasan.

(1) *The Ahmadabad-Ajmer-Bandikui-Delhi Line.* In 1877, Government of India decided to extend the Bombay, Baroda and Central Indian Railway from Ahmadabad to Rajputana. The line was opened for traffic upto Palanpur on 15th November, 1879. Thus this line was the first to traverse through the Gandhinagar district. From Ahmadabad, it enters the Gandhinagar district near the Khodiar railway station and runs through

the Mahesana and Banas Kantha districts of the Gujarat State. It then goes beyond the Delhi, India's Capital. Khodiar is the only railway station of the Gandhinagar district falling on this line.

Looking to its importance, a double track was provided on this line between Sabarmati and Mahesana after Independence. This work was executed between 1956 and 1964.

This line connects Gandhinagar district to Ahmadabad in the south and Mahesana and Banas Kantha districts in the north and through them to other important places in Rajasthan and Haryana States as also Delhi, also in the same direction.

(2) *The Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma Section.*—This line was constructed by the Ahmedabad-Prantij Railway Company in stages between 1897 and 1911 as narrated below.

| <i>Section</i> | <i>Date of Opening</i> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Ahmadabad-Talod | 1-05-1897 |
| Talod-Prantij | 2-07-1897 |
| Prantij-Himatnagar | 23-10-1897 |
| Himatnagar-Khedbrahma सत्यमेव जयते | 1-07-1911 |

The management of the line was taken over by the Government of India, and was entrusted to the B. B. & C. I. Railway Company for operations. It was acquired by the Government of India on 1st January, 1947 and added to the list of railways operated by the B. B. & C. I. Railway Company. The line passes through the Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar and Sabarkantha districts. There are only two railway stations, viz., Medra and Dabhoda of the Gandhinagar district on this line. The line links the district with the important places like Ahmadabad, Talod, Prantij, Himatnagar, Idar and Khedbrahma in this State. It also connects Rajasthan through Himatnagar-Udaipur line.

(3) *The Kalol-Vijapur-Ambaliyasan Line*—This line was constructed by the former Baroda State. Its construction was undertaken as a part of relief works during the great famine of 1899. The section between Kalol and Vijapur was opened for traffic on 10th June, 1902 and that between Vijapur and Ambaliyasan on 1st October, 1928. The line was worker by the B. B. & C. I. Railway till 31st March, 1933, whereafter it

was managed by the Baroda State. The line enters the Gandhinagar district immediately after Kalol near the Titoda railway station. After Vasan station of this district, it again passes through the Mahesana district. Out of the eight railway stations in the district, five are situated on this line. The line provides an important link between the Mahesana and the Gandhinagar districts.

For quick development of new capital, its railway link with Ahmedabad is very essential. In the first meeting of the Gujarat Capital Advisory Committee, which was attended *inter alia* by a high official of the Western Railway, the State Government desired to have a double track broad gauge line between Sabarmati and Gandhinagar and metre gauge double track from Khodiar to Kalol via Gandhinagar. However, in the preliminary Survey of the second line, it was found that the proposal was not economical.

Further in 1969, a proposal for a parallel broad gauge line alongside the State Express Highway between Sabarmati and Gandhinagar as suggested by the then Chief Minister was also examined. Meanwhile the IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited) requested the railway authorities to provide broad gauge siding for their fertiliser factory near Kalol in the Mahesana district. Similar request was also made by Gujarat Electricity Board for providing railway siding for their thermal power station near Pethapur in the Gandhinagar district. In the light of above suggestions, the Railway Board desired to have a quick financial appraisal of the proposed broad gauge link to Gandhinagar duly taking into account the additional traffic likely to move as a result of the establishment of the above factories. The construction work of the line was commenced in February, 1973 and is likely to be completed by the end of the year 1975.¹ The railway station is to be named as 'Gandhinagar Capital'. The new line starts from the existing Sabarmati station and extends up to Gandhinagar station covering a distance of 28 km. The track has been laid even beyond Gandhinagar right upto Pethapur the site of the power house, which is about 5.5 km., from the railway station of Gandhinagar. The link between Gandhinagar and Pethapur is provided as a private siding for the power house at Pethapur. The track between Sabarmati and Pethapur is ready for goods traffic in full loads for the Gujarat Electricity Board power house as a special arrangement. A part of this link has already been opened for moving fertilisers and other material to and from the IFFCO factory. The siding right upto IFFCO factory which was opened for traffic in April 1974, takes off from the Khodiar station.

1. The entire line was opened for passenger and goods traffic in 1976.
VA-264-27

Thus we can see that excluding Sabarmati-Gandhinagar broad gauge line the district is at present served by the three metre gauge lines covering eight railway stations and 37 km. These lines connect the district with important places in the adjoining districts of Ahmadabad, Mahesana and Sabarkantha and through them other important places in the country. All existing metre gauge lines passing through the district were constructed between 1879 and 1928. The new broadgauge line between Gandhinagar and Sabarmati when completed will greatly help the traffic inclusive of passengers traffic to and from Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad.

PASSENGERS AND GOODS TRAFFIC

The following statement shows the passengers and goods traffic at each of the railway stations in the district.

Rail Traffic (1974-75)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Line 2 | Name of the stations 3 | Daily average total passenger traffic | | Total goods-traffic (in Metric Tonnes) | |
|------------|---|------------------------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| | | | Outward 4 | Inward 5 | Outward 6 | Inward 7 |
| 1. | Khedbrahma-Himmatnagar- Ahmadabad (M.G.) | 1. Dabhdoda | 980 | 796 | .. | .. |
| | | 2. Madra | 605 | 591 | .. | .. |
| 2. | Ahmadabad-Mahesana (M.G.) | Khodiar (Khoral) | 1,156 | 1,096 | 3 | 1 |
| 3. | Kalol-Vijapur- Ambaliyasan (M.G.) | 1. Titoda | 140 | 129 | .. | .. |
| | | 2. Adraj Moti | 224 | 197 | .. | .. |
| | | 3. Sonipur Rupal | 153 | 141 | .. | .. |
| | | 4. Randheja | 422 | 399 | 2 | 5 |
| | | 5. Vasan | 277 | 249 | 12 | 1 |

Source : Divisional Commercial Superintendent, Western Railway, Rajkot Division, Rajkot.

WATER TRANSPORT

Only two rivers pass through the district, i.e., Sabarmati and Khari. These rivers are not navigable. There is, therefore, no transport or movement through water.

BRIDGES

The bridges are very important because on the one hand they abridge the distance and on the other they make the road trafficable during the whole year. In Gandhinagar district, there are two main rivers, viz., the Sabarmati and the Khari. The following statement gives the details of the bridges/causeways, etc., in Gandhinagar district:

| Sl. No. 1 | Bridges/ Causeways 2 | Name of the road and its category 3 | Name of the river/nallah 4 | Length of bridge 5 | Year of construction 6 |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Minor bridge | Ahmadabad-Phirozpur- N. H. No. 8 | Nullah | 48' | 1958 |
| 2. | -do- | -do- | -do- | 51' | 1955 |
| 3. | Bridge | Ahmadabad-Dahgam- Hansol (S.H.) | Khari river | 295' 9" | 1954 |
| 4. | -do- | Gandhinagar-Chiloda (Express Highway) | Sabarmati | | Nearing com- pletion |

Source :

Executive Engineer, (Roads & Buildings), Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar.

AIR TRANSPORT

There is no aerodrome in the Gandhinagar district, but the aerodrome at Ahmadabad is quite near to the Gandhinagar town and the people in the district make use of this aerodrome for their journey to Delhi, Bombay, Jaipur, etc.

TRAVEL AND TOURIST FACILITIES

Travel and tourist facilities generally available to the public can broadly be divided into three groups; (1) Dharmashalas and *sarais* provided by charitable trusts and philanthropic persons, (2) guest and rest houses provided by the Government mainly for touring government servants and (3) private guest houses and lodging and boarding houses run on professional basis usually in urban areas. Their brief description is given below:

In Gandhinagar district except the capital town there is no other urban centre. Private guest houses and modern lodging, boarding houses have, therefore, not come into existence. There is big Dharmashala at Unvarsad. Except this practically there are no *dharmashalas* and *sarais* in the district. However, in villages travellers can easily find some place for resting in the local temple. Gandhinagar being the capital town, Government has provided good accommodation facilities. Their details are given below.

(1) **Pathikashram** : It is situated in Sector No. 11 and is open for Government servants as well as private parties. There are sixty rooms of double bed and nine dormitories.

(2) **Vishram Grih** : It is situated in Sector No. 21 opposite to present Sachivalaya building. It contains 18 suites including an air conditioned room.

(3) V. I. P. guest house: This is situated in Ministers enclave and is meant for important persons, State Guests, etc.

These three buildings are in charge of the Executive Engineer, Capital Project Division No. 2, Gandhinagar.

POST OFFICES

At the time of the formation of the Gandhinagar district, there were only 24 post offices in 1964. On account of the development of roads, many villages in the interior have been connected. This made it possible to open post offices at such places where none existed in the past as revealed by the following figures.

Post Offices, 1974

| Sl. No. | Type of Office | Number | | |
|------------|---|--------|------|------|
| | | 1964 | 1970 | 1974 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Head Post Office* | .. | .. | Nil |
| 2. | Sub-Post Offices | .. | .. | 8 |
| 3. | Branch Post Offices | .. | .. | 15 |
| 4. | Telegraph Offices | .. | .. | Nil |
| 5. | Combined Offices | .. | .. | 10 |
| 6. | Total number of Post Offices | .. | .. | 24 |
| 7. | Number of Letter Boxes | .. | .. | 52 |
| 8. | Public Call Offices | .. | .. | 10 |
| 9. | Number of villages without Post Offices | .. | .. | 51 |
| | | | 44 | 36 |

The statement reveals that till 1970, there was no head post office in the district. However, a separate head post office for the district was opened in 1973 and the separate postal division with headquarter at Gandhinagar was also started in 1968. Within a period of ten years the number of post offices rose from 24 in 1964 to 39 in 1974. Similarly the number of sub-post offices and branch offices also rose from 8 to 15 and 15 to 22 respectively during the same period.

As a result of the expansion of postal facilities in the district, the number of village without post offices came down from 51 in 1964 to 36 in 1974. The statement reveals that there was no separate telegraph office till 1974, but telegraph facility was available alongwith postal services in the combined offices.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

At present Gandhinagar enjoys a direct link with Ahmadabad. Other places in the district such as Adalaj, Dabhdoda, Pethapur, and Randheja also have each a telephone exchange. Besides these, public call offices are also installed at Sardhav and Unava-Balva. Their details are given in the following statement.

Development of the means of communications in modern times is the product of social, economic and political development in the country at present. Telephone is one of them and its utility is increasingly felt in towns, cities, metropolitan areas, etc.. Personal contacts are facilitated by telephones, so are business transactions settled quickly on account of telephone facilities. Overseas telephonic talks have been made possible by laying down of cables through trans-oceanic lines. Thus physical distance is no longer a barrier in modern times.

For developing cities, townships, etc., telephones are a necessity. The Gandhinagar township, intended to be developed as a full fledged capital, will develop as such in course of time or within a period of ten years hence with all modern facilities of transport and communications.

List of Telephone Exchanges in Gandhinagar District, 1974

| Sl. No. | Name of the Exchange | Type & Capacity of Exchange | Working connections | Extensions waiting list | Trunk line alignment |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Gandhinagar | 1000 MAX. II | 544 | 12 | Microwave Ahmadabad-Gandhinagar. |
| 2. | Adalaj | 50 MAX. III | 25 | 5 | Connected to Ahmadabad |
| 3. | Dabhdoda | 50 MAX. III | 27 | 17 | -do- |
| 4. | Pethapur | 50 MAX. III | 14 | 1 | Connected to Randheja |
| 5. | Randheja | 100 CBNM | 95 | 31 | Connected to Kalol |

Public Call Offices

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|-----------------------|
| 1. Sardhav | .. | .. | .. | Connected to Kalol |
| 2. Unava-Balva | .. | .. | .. | Connected to Randheja |

NOTE : MAX = Multiple Automatic Exchange. CBNM = Central Battery Non-Multiple.

Source :

General Manager, Tele communications, Gujarat Circle, Ahmadabad.

RURAL BROADCASTING

The scheme of rural broadcasting or more commonly known as "Contributory Scheme" envisages installation of radio sets in the villages of the State for the benefit of the village community. This scheme helps in the dissemination of news about the development programmes and important happenings in the State and the country. It helps to educate the village folk in respect of improvement in agriculture, animal husbandry, etc., and also provides them information about the changing face of the rural economy on account of implementation of the Five Year Plans. Thus the villages no longer bear the stamp of isolation on account of provision of radio communication in the villages. This radio set is installed at an important public place either in the village garden or in the panchayat office and village people assembled there to here the news and other programmes broadcast by the All India Radio. They (people) are also enlightened through the cultural programme, folk songs, short stories, dramas, light music, etc.

The scheme is contributory in that a part of the expenditure on the installation of the radio set is borne by the village itself and other expenditure is borne by the Government. For installation of a new radio set in the economically backward areas, Government meets one-third of the total expenditure of the radio set and the remaining is to be made over by the gram panchayat office. Thus, the Government provides 33 per cent or Rs. 150 whichever is less in the case of radio sets installed in the economically backward areas. In regard to the maintenance, the gram panchayat office has to incur an expenditure of Rs. 60 for an electrically operated radio sets, Rs. 75 for a transistorised set and Rs. 150 for a valve type dry battery operated set.

On 31st December, 1974, 35 radio sets were installed in the villages of the Gandhinagar district. Radio communication has proved to be a very powerful source of mass communication and more and more villages are now being brought under this scheme.

RADIO WIRELESS

There is no radio station in the district, but the All-India Radio Station at Ahmadabad is the nearest radio station for the Gandhinagar district. Radio sets which began to be used in the early thirties of this century have became very popular after Independence and have also reached the common man's house, on account of manufacture of cheaper sets by the manufacturing companies. The coverage of these sets is limited but there is no wonder if one finds a set or two (including a transister) even in small huts or road side tea centres on highways.

The total number of radio licences as on 31st December, 1974 registered with all the post offices in the Gandhinagar district including the head office was 15,346.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Employment in public administration especially in the Government departments is valued because of the job security and other amenities connected therewith. The Census of 1971 has returned 165 officers engaged under the State and Union Governments. Of these, the State Government officials were the largest (150). Their details are shown below. (Similar figures for employees are not available).

| Sl. No. 1 | Occupations 2 | Males | Females | Total |
|-----------------|---|-------|---------|-------|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Administrative and Executive Officials, Union Government. | 15 | .. | 15 |
| 2 | Administrative and Executive Officials, State Government. | 150 | .. | 150 |
| 3 | Administrative and Executive Officials, Quasi-Government. | .. | .. | .. |
| 4 | Administrative and Executive Officials, Local Bodies | .. | .. | .. |
| 5 | Administrative and Executive Officials, Government and Local Bodies, n.e.c... | .. | .. | .. |

Source :
Census 1971, B-V, Part A (Urban), Gandhinagar District, (Provisional figures).

AMENITIES TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

Besides providing such allowances as dearness, house-rent, etc., the State Government has also made provision for granting loans to its employees for constructing residential buildings, purchase of vehicles, purchase of foodgrains, advances for festivals, purchase of electric fan, etc., Government servants are provided residential accommodation wherever possible. Moreover, the Government servants are allowed free medical treatment at Government hospitals and dispensaries. Expenses incurred by them for medical treatment of themselves and the members of their families, at the institutions authorised by the Government, are also reimbursed to them. In addition to this, concessions of leave on average pay for a period of one year and extraordinary leave for another year are granted to the Government servants suffering from T. B. Moreover, Government also pays certain charges like the sanatorium and in serious cases, a fixed amount is paid for specialised diet, medicines and injections, prescribed for the recovery of the T. B. patients during the period of convalescence.

In addition to the above benefits, Government servants are now granted travel concessions for visit to their home-town once in every two years. They are also allowed to encash the whole or part of the earned leave surrendered to Government for a maximum of 30 days, once in every two years. This scheme came into force from January, 1971.

The Central Government and the statutory bodies, like the Life Insurance Corporation, have similar schemes to provide relief to their employees.

EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATIONS

Since the inauguration of the planning in the country there has been a great expansion of employment in public service at all levels including the Central Government, the State Government, the Local bodies, panchayats, etc., as large manpower was required for implementing various development schemes under the plans. These employees have formed their respective unions for redressal of their common grievances. The association formed by the State Government employees is known as the "Gujarat Rajya Karmachari Mahamandal" with branches in the districts affiliated to the Mahamandal at the State level. Employees of the Panchayati Raj institutions have also formed similar organisations in various departments. There are also the unions of the class III employees, i.e., (1) Gujarat Sachivalaya and Allied Offices Staff Association; Sachivalaya, (2) Gujarat Sachivalaya and Allied Offices Stenographers' Association, (3) Gujarat State Government Press Supervisors' Association, (4) Gujarat P.W.D. Drawing Branch Association (Gujarat Zone), Patnagar Yojana Bhavan, Minor Irrigation Circle, (5) Association of Technical Staff, Public Health Engineering of Panchayats and Health Department, and (6) Gujarat State Government Class IV Servants' Association. The branches of these associations are functioning at Gandhinagar. Their relevant details are summarised below.

STATEMENT VIII.1

Employees' Union

| Sl. No. 1 | Name of the Union 2 | Date of registration 3 | Approximate membership 4 |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Gujarat Sachivalaya and Allied Offices Staff Association, Sachivalaya. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 2 | Gujarat Sachivalaya and Allied Offices, Stenographers' Association. | 1969 | 135 |
| 3 | Gujarat State Government Press Supervisors' Association | 1969 | 42 |
| 4 | Gujarat P.W.D. Drawing Branch Association (Gujarat Zone). Patnagar Yojana Bhavan, Minor Irrigation Circle. . . | 1972 | 110 |
| 5 | Association of Technical Staff, Public Health Engineering of Panchayats and Health Department. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 6 | Gujarat Rajya Government Class IV Servants' Employees Confederation | 1-1-1971 | 590 |

NOTE : N. A. = Not available.

SELECTED OCCUPATIONS

The urban composition of certain selected miscellaneous occupations is shown in the subjoined Statement VIII.2.

It reveals that 924 workers were returned in the selected occupations at the time of 1971 Census. Further, the professions which returned a large number of workers were arts, letters and science (329), teachers (257), administrative and executive officials (165), and medical profession (90). Of the teachers, more than 50 per cent were women teachers, a majority of whom was engaged as primary teachers.

STATEMENT VIII.2

Number of Persons engaged in Selected Occupations, 1971.

| Sl. No. 1 | Name of Occupation 2 | Males 3 | Females 4 | Total 5 |
|-----------------|--|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Physicians and Surgeons, (including Dental and Veterinary Surgeons) | 35 | 5 | 40 |
| 2 | Nursing and other Medical and Health Technicians .. | 20 | 30 | 50 |
| 3 | Teachers | 105 | 152 | 257 |
| (a) | Teachers, University and Colleges .. | 60 | 10 | 70 |
| (b) | Teachers, Higher Secondary and High School .. | 20 | .. | 20 |
| (c) | Teachers, Middle School | 10 | .. | 10 |
| (d) | Teachers, Primary | 15 | 137 | 152 |
| (e) | Teachers, Pre-primary | .. | 5 | 5 |
| 4 | Jurists | 5 | .. | 5 |
| 5 | Arts, Letters and Science .. | 324 | 5 | 329 |
| 6 | Administrative and Executive Officials, Government and Local Bodies | 165 | .. | 165 |
| 7 | Salesmen, Shop Assistants and Related Workers .. | 20 | 9 | 29 |
| 8 | Tailors, Dress-makers, Sewers, upholsters and Related Workers | 25 | 6 | 31 |
| 9 | Jewellery and precious metal workers and Metal Engravers (Except Printing) | .. | .. | .. |
| 10 | House-keepers, Matrons and Stewards (Domestic and Institutional) | .. | .. | .. |
| 11 | Hair Dressers, Barbers, Beauticians and Related Workers | 10 | .. | 10 |
| 12 | Launderers, Dry-cleaners and Pressers, n.e.c. .. | 10 | .. | 10 |

Source :

Census 1971, B-V, Part A (Urban), Gandhinagar, District (Provisional figures).

LEARNED PROFESSIONS

Teachers—There were 960 persons who were engaged in the teaching profession in the district in 1971. Of these, the primary teachers numbered 700, secondary teachers 180, persons engaged in higher education 50 and

those engaged in other types of educational institutions were 30. Thus the number of primary teachers was the highest. Arts and Commerce and Science Colleges are at present in existence at the capital township of Gandhinagar. It may be expected that more high schools may be opened in the district in the near future to facilitate imparting of secondary education to the pupils in this district. The number of secondary teachers in 1974-75 was 310 in the district.

Lawyers—No court is functioning in the revenue limits of the Gandhinagar district and the judicial work is executed at the courts located at Dehgam, Kalol, Ahmadabad and Mahesana. As such the number of pleaders and advocates for the Gandhinagar district is not available.

Doctors—The Census of 1971 has returned 90 persons (55 males and 35 females) as engaged in medical profession and other health services. Their details are as under.

| Sl. No. 1 | Group 2 | Males 3 | Females 4 | Total 5 |
|-----------------|---|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Physicians and Surgeons. (including dental and veterinary surgeons) | .. | 35 | 5 |
| 2 | Nursing and other medical and health technicians | .. | 20 | 30 |
| | Total | .. | 55 | 90 |

Source :

Census 1971, B-V, Part-A, (Urban), Gandhinagar District, (Provisional figures).

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCE

Under the category "Arts, Letters and Science" the occupations shown in the following statement have been considered in 1971 Census.

STATEMENT VIII.4

Number of Persons engaged in Arts, Letters and Science, 1971

| Sl. No. 1 | Occupations 2 | Males 3 | Females 4 | Total 5 |
|-----------------|--|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Architects, Engineers, Technologists and Surveyors | 229 | .. | 229 |
| 2 | Engineering Technicians | 65 | .. | 65 |
| 3 | Biologists, Zoologists, Botanists and Related Workers | 5 | .. | 5 |
| 4 | Social Scientists and Related Workers | 20 | 5 | 25 |
| 5 | Other Professional Workers (ordained and non-ordained) | 5 | .. | 5 |
| | Total | .. | 324 | 329 |

Source :

Census 1971, B-V, Part-A, (Urban), Gandhinagar District, (Provisional figures).

Persons engaged in arts, letters and science numbered 329. Of these 5 were females engaged as social scientists and related workers. The highest number of workers (229) was found in the category of the architects, engineers and surveyors and the lowest number of workers (5) was found as Biologists, Zoologists and other professional workers. Under the category of architects, engineers and surveyors are included architects and town planners (15), civil engineers (204), mechanical engineers and surveyors (5). The large numbers of civil engineers and town planners were returned because they were engaged in the construction work of the capital township of Gandhinagar.

SELECTED MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

A sample survey of the following occupations, one each in large, medium and small categories was undertaken in the month of October, 1975, at Pethapur and Randheja villages of this district, which revealed certain urban characteristics, on the basis of number of inhabitants and the number of shops/occupations. The selection of occupations was made on the basis of income derived by each of the owners. The results of the survey are given below :

1. *Hotels and Restaurants*—There were 30 establishments in Pethapur and Randheja villages, which engaged 91 persons. The survey disclosed that these establishments were managed by the owners themselves, but some of the big hotels engaged paid servants on monthly salaries ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 150 p.m. Most of the establishments were housed in owned premises but some were located in rented premises for which monthly rent of Rs. 12 to 90 was paid. The initial investments made by an individual hotel owner in their concerns ranged from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000. The gross income of an individual establishment ranged between Rs. 220 to Rs. 2,150 p.m. depending upon the size, location and popularity. There are only three establishments of aerated water one at Randheja and two were at Pethapur. There are no lodging and boarding houses in Pethapur and Randheja. There is no association of the hotel owners.

2. *Sweets and Farsan*—There were in all ten establishments preparing sweets and *farsan* (spiced and salty eatables). The business of these concerns remained mostly seasonal, but brisk sales generally took place during the marriage season and in festivals like Diwali, Holi, etc. The investment made by individual occupations in this group varied from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000. The gross monthly income of an individual shop varied from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 8,000 p.m. depending upon size, location and varieties of items sold. The *farsan* of Randheja is very famous and is sent to

places upto Bombay. Very few shops employed salaried persons for preparation of various items. Generally the family members were employed for doing miscellaneous work, and also run the shops in the absence of owners. There is no association of the sweet and *farsan* owners.

3. *Pan-bidi*—These shops are the best example of one man establishments and are run on sole proprietorship basis. These units kept and sold beside betal leaves, additional items like tobacco, perfumery, cigarettes, match boxes, peppermints, chocolates, etc. It was observed that most of these shops were housed in rented premises and were attached to hotels or in wooden booths erected on road side, each paying a monthly rent of Rs. 30 or more to the Panchayat. The gross earning of an individual establishment varied from Rs. 150 to Rs. 800 p.m. depending upon location and popularity. The investment made by the individual shop owners in their concern ranged from Rs. 50 to Rs. 1,000. There is no association of the *pan-bidi* owners.

4. *Hair-cutting Saloons*—There were 15 hair-cutting saloons scattered in different areas and mostly run as proprietary concerns. The number of persons engaged was 32. A majority of them was housed in rented premises paying rent ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 p.m. individually. The gross income of an individual establishment was reported to vary from Rs. 150 to Rs. 350 p.m., depending upon the location and popularity. It was reported by the owners that on account of recent trends in hair styles of men their business had been adversely affected. The investment made by the individual shop owners in their concerns ranged from Rs. 200 to Rs. 2,000, the later equipped with modern facilities. There is no association of the shop owners.

5. *Flour-mills*—There were nine flour-mills which engaged 18 persons in Pethapur and Randheja villages. Most of them were sole proprietary concerns. The gross monthly income of an individual concern varied from Rs. 550 to Rs. 1000 p.m. The flour-mills were located in different areas in Pethapur and Randheja and the rent paid varied from Rs. 25 to Rs. 115 p.m. The investment made by the flour-mill owners for starting the mill ranged from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000. There is no association of the owners.

6. *Goldsmithy*—There were 12 establishments of goldsmiths in Pethapur and Randheja, which engaged 32 persons. A majority of them employed family members. These shops were housed in premises on a monthly rent varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 p.m. paid by individual owners of such shops. The gross monthly income of an individual goldsmith varied from Rs. 300 to Rs. 850 p.m. Those who sold ready-made ornaments had

even larger monthly incomes during marriage season and in festivals like Diwali. The goldsmiths' business has been reported to be adversely affected on account of the Gold Control Order, 1963. Further on account of recent abnormal prices of gold, people especially women, have adopted to wearing ornaments made from silver. The investment made by an individual shop ranged from Rs. 400 to Rs. 7,000. There is no association of the Goldsmiths in the district.

7. *Tailoring*—The total number of tailoring units was 22 which employed 35 persons. A majority of them was found to be sole proprietary concerns, but taking minor works such as fixing of buttons, stitching and repairing of garments, etc., on daily wages was not uncommon. Sometimes members of the family were also engaged in such a work to meet customers' demands for occasions like marriage and festivals. Some of these establishments were housed in owned premises. The gross earnings of an individual shop varied from Rs. 350 to Rs. 900 p. m., depending upon its popularity in introducing new fashions in dresses according to the current style in vogue. Most of the shops are established in owned premises. The investment made by the individual tailoring shop ranged from Rs. 850 to Rs. 4,000. There is no association of the tailoring shops.

8. *Cycle Repairing*—The number of establishments engaged in repairing and servicing of bicycles was only 6, which employed 10 persons in the repairing work. It was found that most of the concerns were housed in owned premises. The gross monthly earnings of an individual establishment engaged in this occupation varied from Rs. 80 to Rs. 1,000. The latter also assembled and sold new cycles, hence the large gross income. The investment made by the individual shop owners in their concerns ranged from Rs. 25 to Rs. 3,000. Those who are unable to keep wooden booth or shop, do the cycle repairing work by the road side, so they have not to invest more money. There is no association of the cycle repairing owners.

No details about mattresses and pillow makers and laundries occupations could be obtained as these shops are very few in number both in Randheja and Pethapur.

STATEMENT VIII.5

Persons Engaged in Certain Occupations in Pethapur and Randheja, 1975

| Sl. No. | Occupations | Number of estab- lishments | Percen- tage to total No. of estab- lishments | Persons employed inclusive of employer | | | | Percentage to total No. of persons employed |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|------------|-----------|------------|---|
| | | | | Males | Females | Children | Total | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | Bakeries | 1 | 0.71 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | 0.69 |
| 2 | (a) Hotels | 24 | 17.15 | 72 | .. | .. | 72 | 24.91 |
| | (b) Lodging and Boarding houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | (c) Restaurants | 3 | 2.14 | 12 | .. | .. | 12 | 4.15 |
| | (d) Aerated water | 3 | 2.14 | 7 | .. | .. | 7 | 2.42 |
| 3 | Sweets and <i>farsans</i> | 10 | 7.14 | 24 | .. | .. | 24 | 8.30 |
| 4 | <i>Pan-bidi</i> | 30 | 21.44 | 30 | .. | .. | 30 | 10.38 |
| 5 | Hair-cutting Saloons | 15 | 10.71 | 32 | .. | .. | 32 | 11.06 |
| 6 | Flour-mills | 9 | 6.43 | 18 | .. | .. | 18 | 6.28 |
| 7 | Goldsmiths | 12 | 8.57 | 32 | .. | .. | 32 | 11.06 |
| 8 | Laundries | 3 | 2.14 | 6 | .. | .. | 6 | 2.08 |
| 9 | Cycle repairing | 6 | 4.28 | 14 | .. | .. | 14 | 4.84 |
| 10 | Tailoring | 22 | 15.72 | 35 | .. | .. | 35 | 12.11 |
| 11 | Mattresses and Pillow makers | 2 | 1.43 | 5 | .. | .. | 5 | 1.72 |
| 12 | Dyeing and Printing | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | Total | .. | 140 | 100.00 | 289 | .. | 289 | 100.00 |

Source :

Taluka Development Officer, Gandhinagar.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN

In any study of the economic growth, manpower plays a vital role. The livelihood pattern of the people of any region and the nature and variety of the occupations followed by them are influenced by the stages of economic development and the extent to which all available latent and potential-resources are utilised for socio-economic growth of that region.

In this study the data supplied by the census are very helpful in assessing the extent of active population engaged in some sort of economic activity aimed at earning livelihood.

Gandhinagar as a separate district came into existence from the year 1964, so previous data about working population, i.e., workers and non-workers for the 1961 Census have been extracted from the census data for Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts. These data are compared with those given by the 1971 Census.

The concept of classification of population into workers and non-workers was adopted from the time of the 1961 Census, and the entire population was divided into nine industrial categories. This classification was continued in the 1971 Census also. The following Statement IX.1 shows the number of persons engaged in these categories in the Gandhinagar district.

STATEMENT IX.1
Category of Working Population, 1961-1971

| Sl. No. | Category of workers 1 2 | Working population | | Percentage to total workers 1961 5 1971 6 | |
|------------|---|--------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| | | 1961 3 | 1971 4 | 1961 5 | 1971 6 |
| 1 | As cultivators | 24,597 | 21,175 | 46.69 | 35.58 |
| 2 | As agricultural labourers | 8,259 | 15,387 | 15.70 | 25.82 |
| 3 | In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, and allied activities | 303 | 2,201 | 0.57 | 3.70 |
| 4 | At household industry | 10,521 | 7,243 | 19.97 | 12.07 |
| 5 | In construction | 290 | 2,621 | 0.55 | 4.40 |
| 6 | In trade and commerce | 2,731 | 2,807 | 5.18 | 4.72 |
| 7 | In transport, storage and communications .. | 742 | 1,369 | 1.41 | 2.30 |
| 8 | In other services | 5,231 | 6,728 | 9.93 | 11.31 |
| | Total | 52,674 | 59,511 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Source :

- (1) *District Census Handbook 1961, Ahmedabad and Mehsana Districts,*
(for portions included in Gandhinagar district).
- (2) *Census of India 1971, Atlas Volume, p. 65.*

The statement shows that workers in agriculture and allied activities constituted 62.39 per cent in 1961 and 61.40 per cent in 1971. The corresponding figures for non-agricultural activities were 37.61 per cent and 38.60 per cent respectively in the same period.

The workers in cultivation decreased from 24,517 or 46.69 per cent in 1961 to 21,175 or 35.58 per cent in 1971, but there is a corresponding increase in agricultural labourers from 8,259 or 15.70 per cent to 15,367 or 25.82 per cent in the same period. Thus, workers engaged as cultivators were 7.54 per cent as against the State average of 43.12 per cent and were 3.34 per cent above the State average of 22.48 per cent as agricultural labourers in 1971. In the non-agricultural activities workers in mining, quarrying, etc., increased from 0.57 per cent in 1961 to 3.70 per cent in 1971 as against the State average of 2.39 per cent. This is because of the oil exploration programme in the Gandhinagar district. The workers in household industry and trade and commerce, respectively declined from 14.36 per cent and 5.18 per cent in 1961 to 2.39 per cent and 4.72 per cent in 1971. But those in manufacturing other than household industry and construction and other services increased from 5.61 per cent, 0.55 per cent and 9.43 per cent in 1961 to 9.78 per cent, 4.40 per cent and 11.31 per cent in 1971. This is because, there are tiles manufacturing, wooden block making, bobbins and brick manufacturing units in the district. Further, Gandhinagar district returned a higher proportion of workers in construction activities than other districts in the State, due to the fact that a large working force was employed for building the new capital township of Gandhinagar.¹

The rural-urban composition of the workers based on the total population of the district is shown in the following Statement IX.2.

STATEMENT IX.2

Category of Workers and Their Rural/Urban Distribution, 1971

| Category of workers | Percentage of population | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Working population | Rural population | Urban population |
| Total Workers | 29.66 | 25.87 | 3.79 |
| (a) Agricultural pursuits | | 18.21 | 17.87 |
| 1 As cultivators | | 10.55 | 10.32 |
| 2 As agricultural labourers | | 7.66 | 7.55 |
| (b) Non-agricultural pursuits | | 11.45 | 8.00 |
| 1 In mining, quarrying, livestock, fishing, plantations, orchards and allied activities | | 1.10 | 0.99 |
| 2 At household industry | | 0.71 | 0.69 |
| 3 In manufacturing other than household industry | | 2.90 | 2.35 |
| 4 In construction | | 1.31 | 0.42 |
| 5 In trade and commerce | | 1.40 | 1.29 |
| 6 In transport, storage and communications | | 0.68 | 0.63 |
| 7 In other services | | 3.35 | 1.63 |
| | | | 1.72 |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Part X-C-I, Gandhinagar, (1973), pp. 56-57.

¹ *Census of India 1971, Gujarat, A Portrait of Population, pp. 288-89.*

The total population of the district in 1971 was 2,00,642 persons, of whom 59,511 or 29.66 per cent were workers. These were distributed into rural 25.87 per cent, and urban 3.79 per cent. The percentage of those engaged in agricultural pursuits accounted for 18.21 per cent 17.87 per cent rural and 0.34 per cent urban of the total population of the district. Cultivators accounted for 10.32 per cent and agricultural labourers 7.55 per cent. Thus dependence on land in the district is greater. The percentage of the persons working in non-agricultural pursuits accounted for 11.45 per cent, of whom 8.00 per cent formed rural component and 3.45 per cent urban. This also shows that the urban composition of population is very limited as there is only one town in the Gandhinagar district.

Among the non-agricultural pursuits, 1.10 per cent of workers were engaged mainly in oil exploration and allied activities, 2.90 per cent of workers was engaged in manufacturing other than household industry, 1.40 per cent in trade and commerce, 1.31 per cent in construction and 3.35 per cent in other services.

The Establishments Report, Part III-A, published by the 1971 Census supplies useful data about the distribution of establishments in the district. These establishments are divided into (1) manufacturing, processing and repairing establishments, (2) trade or business establishments, and (3) other establishments, Gandhinagar district had 2,831 establishments of all types, which accounted for 0.50 per cent of the total establishments of the State. Of these, 625 or 0.33 per cent were manufacturing establishments, 1,593 or 0.64 per cent were trade or business establishments and 613 or 0.17 per cent were other establishments. Among all the three types of establishments, the Gandhinagar district occupied 18th place in the State.

As regards the number of persons employed in the three types of establishments, the 1971 Census has returned 1,783 persons as engaged in manufacturing establishments. In trade and business establishments 2,502 persons were engaged in the district whereas in other establishments 2,408 persons were employed. In terms of percentages these categories absorbed 0.25 per cent, 0.54 per cent and 0.52 per cent respectively of the total number of persons in the State and enjoyed 18th place in the State as a whole. This shows relative backwardness of the district. This may be attributed to the following factors: (i) limited geographical area and consequent limited number of active workers, (ii) absence of household and non-household manufacturing industries, (iii) absence of other minerals except oil and (iv) rural character of the district.

The 1971 Census has enabled us for the first time to have the distribution of number of establishments classified by categories into Government/

quasi-Government, private and co-operative sectors. The Census has thus covered establishments included in the unorganised sector. Thus, for the first time authentic figures based on complete coverage of all types of establishments with their distribution into above groups are available. In the Gandhinagar district, there were 361 Government and quasi-Government establishments accounting for 0.67 per cent, 2,392 were private establishments accounting for 0.48 per cent and 78 were co-operative establishments accounting for 0.84 per cent of the total establishments. The district occupied 19th place in the Government and quasi-Government establishments and 18th in respect of private and co-operative establishments in the State.

The household industries accounted for 0.51 per cent of the total household industries in the State. The district enjoyed 18th position among the districts in the State.

NON-WORKERS

The number of non-workers increased from 83,365 in 1961 to 141,131 in 1971. The State average of workers and non-workers was 31 and 69 as reported by the 1971 Census. As against this, the ratio for Gandhinagar district was 29.66 for workers and 70.24 for non-workers, this shows that Gandhinagar district was 1.34 per cent below State average in respect of workers and an equal percentage above the State average in respect of non-workers indicating also that the number of non-workers, i.e., the proportion of economically inactive population was more in this district than the State as a whole.¹

Prices

The price mechanism is generally influenced by the law of demand and supply. Its impact is felt on the entire economy and is reflected in the levels of living of the people in a region. The role of prices is not passive reflecting only the changes in the price levels but is active and most powerful factor in that it can either cause inflation and influence the economy by giving a picture of rising prices coupled with worsening the economic condition of the people. If it is generated by only pumping in of money without commensurate increase in production it can doom the economy. It may either cause recession resulting in the stagnation of the economic growth of a region or a nation or it may result in depression giving low prices for the produce of the region, also causing hardships to the producers. Thus, the price level has a direct bearing on the gross national product or the national income.

1. Census of India 1971, Gujarat, A Portrait of Population, pp. 260-61.

In this context the following paragraphs describe the working of price mechanism in the Gandhinagar district. Constituted as it was a decade back on account of the selection of Gandhinagar as capital site for the State of Gujarat, it comprises the territories of Kadi and Dehgam talukas under the Gaekwad and of city taluka and the Daskroi mahal of the Ahmadabad district. Before Independence during War time there was an artificial barrier creating hardships on both the sides of the border as there was no free flow of goods.

As the data on prices for the Gandhinagar district as such are not available, broad outlines are mentioned below.

The characteristic phenomenon upto to 1914 was that prices witnessed violent fluctuations in the agricultural commodities. The Prices Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1913 attributed the rising prices to national and international causes. The Committee's study revealed that the internal causes were short supply of agricultural produce in general and of foodgrains in particular due to rise in population and substitution of non-food crops for food crops, development of railways and other communications facilities which gave rise to exports to distant areas and lastly increase in the volume of money circulation. The international factors were shortage of supply of agricultural products, increased gold supply, destruction by wars and heavy expenditure on military hardware and diversification of capital and labour into unproductive channels. Prices upto 1918-19 were generally low in the past because there was total absence of quick transport facilities. Thus, the produce of a region remained more or less within the limits of that region and there was thus sufficient supply. The population was also limited and village economy was self-reliant. The barter economy prevailed and there was little use of money except for purchases outside the region. But on account of outbreak of World War I in 1914 a sharp rise in prices was noticed. The cultivator obtained better returns for his produce than before. Mechanised transport came on the scene and industrialisation became imminent. On account of these factors, there was migration of farm labourer to the cities and towns hampering agricultural operations. The price rise of essential commodities also reflected in items like oil, ghee, gur, cloth, fire-wood, etc. The only result of the price rise was a sort of improvement in the levels of living of the people. For example in Mahesana a rupee could buy 36 seers of wheat in 1884-85, 20 seers in 1909-10 but only about 9 seers in 1918-19. Similarly in 1884-85 a rupee could buy 45 lbs. of jowar but only 11 lbs., in 1918-19. This price boom did not last long and in 1929, there was a world wide depression which brought down agricultural prices precipitately.

The worst effects of depression began to lessen after 1933-34 and the economy showed signs of recovery. On account of World War II from 1939 onwards, prices again began to rise. Since World War II, there was a continuous rise in prices and conditions moved in such a way which did not show any signs of "go back" to pre-war days. The war also created artificial scarcity because of exports of essential commodities to the West Asian and to African fronts. Hoarding, profiteering and speculation were rampant. A rupee which should buy 20 seers of rice prior to war could buy only 4 seers in 1944-45. Similarly, wheat which could be had 19 seers for a rupee in 1939-40 went down to 4 seers in 1946-47. Pulses and other food-grains also presented a similar picture. The Government introduced rationing and opened fair price shops for the public, more so for the economically weaker sections of the population. Hoarding and profiteering were banned under special laws. In the period from 1947 onwards it has been noticed that prices have continuously risen and there was a steep rise after 1965 A.D. Though rationing has been introduced and fair price shops have been opened, the price mechanism has not reacted much to the measures taken by the Government to fight inflation. The results could be attributed to rise in population, continuously from 1931, artificial scarcity, increased money supply, and investments in major irrigation projects, heavy industry, etc., under the plan programme without matching production. The zonal system adopted more so after the constitution of the linguistic States has also contributed much to the price rise. The increase in the retaining capacity of the farmers after the Second World War also affected the prices adversely. Thus, all these factors were responsible for pushing up the prices. In a way the inflation in the country is more of a price inflation. In this background the following Statement IX.3 gives statistics of prices prevalent in Kalol, Dehgam and Gandhinagar markets.

STATEMENT IX.3
Wholesale Prices of Important Commodities, Gandhinagar District

| Sl. No. | Commodity | Taluka Year | Kaloj Taluka | | | Dehgam Taluka | | | Gandhinagar | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| | | | 1960 Rs. p. 4 | 1962 Rs. p. 5 | 1964 Rs. p. 6 | 1962 Rs. p. 7 | 1964 Rs. p. 8 | 1969-70 Rs. p. 10 | 1972-73 Rs. p. 11 | | |
| 1. | Rice (Fine) | .. | .. | 34.07 | 92.08 | 109.05 | N.A. | N.A. | 95.00 | .. | |
| 2. | Rice (Medium) | .. | .. | 28.62 | 87.68 | 89.45 | N.A. | 83.64 | 82.31 | .. | .. |
| 3. | Rice (Coarse) | .. | .. | N.A. | 55.44 | 68.29 | N.A. | 64.85 | 67.32 | .. | .. |
| 4. | Wheat (White) | .. | .. | 22.69 | 60.08 | 100.42 | 88.08 | 63.40 | 67.68 | 85.00 | 135.00 |
| 5. | Wheat (Red) | .. | .. | 21.69 | 55.86 | 96.70 | 83.87 | N. A. | 56.02 | .. | .. |
| 6. | Jowar (White) | .. | .. | 16.39 | 41.74 | 56.25 | 64.72 | N. A. | N. A. | 90.00 | 80.00 |
| 7. | Bajri | .. | .. | 16.71 | 39.09 | 60.27 | 69.45 | N. A. | 41.33 | 75.00 | 97.50 |
| 8. | Gram (daal) | .. | .. | 20.10 | 53.74 | N. A. | N. A. | N. A. | .. | .. | |
| 9. | Tur (daal) | .. | .. | 28.77 | N. A. | N. A. | N. A. | N. A. | 100.00 | 190.00 | |
| 10. | Mag (Whole) | .. | .. | 20.48 | 55.99 | 98.75 | 91.04 | .. | .. | .. | |
| 11. | Udiid (Whole) | .. | .. | 20.40 | 61.55 | N. A. | N. A. | .. | .. | .. | |
| 12. | Gronndnut | .. | .. | N. A. | 61.69 | N. A. | N. A. | .. | 140.00 | 227.00 | |
| 13. | Sesamum | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 200.00 | 285.25 | |

N. A. = Not available, Figures of Prices are per B/mds. for Kaloj Taluka and for Dehgam and for Gandhinagar figures are per quintal.

Source :

1. District Statistical Abstract Mehsana District, 1960-61, p. 45, 1962-63, pp. 50-51, 1964-65, 1965-66, pp. 150-151.
2. District Statistical Abstract Ahmedabad District, 1962-63, p. 40, 1963-64, p. 89.
3. The Directorate of Agriculture, Ahmedabad.

Wages

As the term suggests, wages generally signify all remunerations capable of being expressed in terms of money paid to a person for the work done by him/her. The level of wages obtaining at a particular period gives an indication about the prevailing economic condition of the people. Price fluctuations have a direct bearing on wage level and wages rise and fall according to vicissitudes of prices.

As the district was constituted in 1964, the data about wages rates in the past are not available to facilitate a comparative study over a period of time.

As the territory of Gandhinagar district includes those areas of Kalol and Dehgam talukas under the Gaekwad, the rates of wages prevailing in the Mahesana district could be treated as representative for the Gandhinagar district. The *Baroda State Gazetteer* compiled by late Govindbhai H. Desai and A. B. Clarke states that in the Kadi division before 1923, a field labourer was available for 2 to 4 annas a day, a carpenter or a blacksmith for 8 to 12 annas and a bricklayer for 4 to 6 annas a day, but thereafter, a field labourer was not available for less than 12 annas, a carpenter or blacksmith for less than Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3-0-0 and bricklayer for less than a rupee or a rupee and a half. Domestic servants demanded double and treble wages than in the previous years. The Baroda State 1931 Census report mentions that, due to increase in the number of farm labourers, their wages came down due to the fact that waste lands were brought under cultivation and women labourers emerged on the scene. The depression of 1929 brought farm prices to a low level. As no data are available effect of depression on wages cannot be said definitely, but conditions began to improve after 1933 and wages must have risen *pari passu*. On account of declaration of World War in 1939 labourers began to migrate to areas where War materials were produced. Further, the mill industry in Ahmadabad and Kalol worked in three shifts on account of war and mill hands were paid attractive remuneration. A new element of payment of dearness allowance was introduced during War time for offsetting a part of increased prices. This factor acted adversely on the farm operations as labour force was attracted to working in mills in preference to that in fields. This resulted in substantial wage increases as the labourers had to be offered additional inducements like with free meals and tea.

After Independence effects of changes of all-India level began to be felt in all parts of the country. Skilled labourers began to get Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 4.00 a day and unskilled labourers received Rs. 2.00 a day. A woman labourer got Rs. 1.50 and child Re. 0.75. The wage rates began to rise steadily. In 1964 at Kadi a carpenter and a blacksmith got Rs. 5.50.

These rates rose to Rs. 7.00 in 1967. As far as field labour was concerned, the rates of wages for a male labourer were Rs. 2.00, for a woman labourer Rs. 1.75 and for a child Rs. 1.50 in 1964. There was no change in wages except for a woman labourer who received Rs. 2.00 in 1967.

Personal inquiries were made at the village Randheja in the district. It revealed that a skilled carpenter got Rs. 12 to 15 per day against 2 to 3 rupees in the pre-war days, and a field labourer Rs. 3 to 5. In addition to cash wages, labourers were provided with breakfast, meals and tea/coffee to keep him engaged for field operations throughout the year.

The following statistics of wages¹ for the year 1974 (June) throw light on the prevailing wage rates in the Gandhinagar district.

| <i>Skilled Labour</i> | Rs. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Carpenter | 12.00 Other agri. Rs. 3.00 |
| Blacksmith | .. 11.00 labour |
| Cobbler | 10.00 |
| Field Labourer | 3.00 |
| Herdsman | .. सन्यामेव न यज्ञे .. 3.00 |

STANDARD OF LIVING

The standard of living is a comprehensive term which includes in its connotation several things of daily requirements such as food, clothing and housing, comforts and luxuries. It is dependent on the total income earned by individual families and is determined by the pattern of their expenditure on various items of consumption and amenities of every day life. The survey of family budgets of different groups, therefore, proves helpful in understanding the standard of living of the people in general.

The Gandhinagar district has predominant rural population. According to the 1971 Census, more than 88 per cent of its population lives in the rural areas. The rest of the population lives in the township of Gandhinagar, which is the State capital and is mostly inhabited by the Government

1. Director of Agriculture, Ahmadabad.

servants. As such, the survey of family budgets was confined to the rural areas of this district and covered families belonging to different strata of the rural population. The villages selected for the survey were (1) Adalaj, (2) Isanpur Mota, (3) Unava. These villages are mostly populated by agriculturists. About 65 families from different strata were surveyed from these villages. The results of the survey are summarised in the following paragraphs:

The families selected for the survey are classified into two broad categories, viz., (1) agriculturists and (2) non-agriculturists. The former are again divided into three groups, according to the size of their land-holdings. Those having less than 5 acres are grouped as small cultivators; those with more than 5 acres but less than 20 acres are termed as medium cultivators; and those with more than 20 acres are considered as large cultivators. It was found during the survey that agriculturists of this district as in other districts, consume foodgrains produced by them. In respect of other items too, including milk, milk products and vegetables, they generally do not go to the market for purchase as they are self-dependent. It was also found that many of the small cultivators supplement their income by following allied occupations or by working as labourers. These characteristics of the rural areas create certain limitations in evaluating the standard of living of the people. The result of the survey discussed in the following paragraphs should, therefore, be examined against these limitations.

Small Cultivators

The small cultivators constitute about 63 per cent of the total cultivators. It was found that these cultivators faced a considerable amount of under-employment coupled with periods of enforced idleness because of their uneconomic holdings. Many of them worked as agricultural labourers to supplement their income. As such, it was difficult to find out the total income accrued to them. However, according to a rough estimate, their annual income on an average was Rs. 4,000. This was mostly derived from farming and agricultural labour. In most of the families, almost all the adult members were found doing manual labour during some part of the year or whenever they could find such employment. About 60 per cent of their total expenditure was spent on food. Clothing accounted for nearly 12 per cent. About 3 per cent was spent on tea, bidi and tobacco, which constitute the only luxury in the life of small cultivators. Expenditure on education formed barely one per cent of the total. Expenditure on religious rites, charity and pilgrimage accounted for 8 per cent. About 6 per cent of the expenditure was on medicine. More than 75 per cent of them lived in their own houses which were small in size and poor in ventilation. Many of them owned a bullock or two and a cow or a buffalo which were accommodated just in front of their small houses; while the others did not have

even this and they hired them in days of need. Very few families possessed a bullock cart. Their household articles were few and simple. None of them possessed gold ornaments, though many owned silver. About 80 per cent of the families surveyed were in debt and the average debt amounted to Rs. 3,000 per family. The debt was incurred either for agricultural purposes or to meet domestic and social requirements. The percentage of literacy in this group was 65 among the males and 42 among the females.

Medium Cultivators

The cultivators who possess land between 6 and 20 acres, were termed as medium cultivators. The main source of their income was farming which comprised cultivation of food and non-food crops. The average annual income of a family was estimated at Rs. 10,000. Fifty-five per cent of the families showed a clear surplus budget; on the other hand, 45 per cent showed deficit budget with a large backlog of past debts. It was found that more than 75 per cent of the debt was incurred for agricultural improvement, and the remainder was for meeting social obligation like marriage. Their expenditure pattern varied from that of the small cultivators. Nearly 45 per cent was spent on food. Milk and milk products accounted for 10 per cent. Clothing accounted for nearly 15 per cent. Education and medicine accounted for nearly 4 per cent each. Expenditure on tea, bidi, tobacco, etc., formed about 3 per cent. Expenditure incurred on religious rites, pilgrimage, etc., accounted for 8 per cent. Most of them lived in their own pucca-built houses. Their household assets included a pair or two of bullocks and one or two cows or buffaloes. The cultivators surveyed were found to own their agricultural implements and draught cattle. The resourcefulness of these cultivators and of the large cultivators was in complete contrast with that of the small cultivators. It was found that 40 per cent of these cultivators employed farm servants to attend to agricultural operations. These cultivators owned large houses and had brass and copper utensils. Many of them possessed transistor radio sets, wrist watches, bicycles, etc. Compared to small cultivators, the percentage of literacy was much higher in this group, being 82 among the males and 63 among the females.

Large Cultivators

The top stratum of the village community comprised big land holders holding more than 20 acres of land. This group was, on the whole, quite well-off economically and lived a fairly comfortable life. All of them employed hired labourers to supplement family labour. On an average, the annual income of a family came to Rs. 17,500. The principal source of their

income was agriculture in which cash crops, especially cotton, dominated. All of them reported surplus budget. Three families which reported debt had incurred it for development of their farms. Their savings were mostly reinvested in agriculture or in profitable investment or in gold or silver. On expenditure side, their actual expenditure on food articles could not be calculated precisely in terms of money as most of their requirements of food, milks, vegetables, etc., were met from their own produce. It was broadly estimated that about 45 per cent was spent on food. Clothing accounted for 16 per cent while tea and tobacco for nearly 3 per cent. About 5 per cent was spent on education of children while an equal amount was spent on religious ceremonies. Medical treatment also accounted for nearly 5 per cent. They spent lavishly on marriage and other social occasions where much of their savings was utilised. Besides cattle and agricultural implements, quite a few of them had oil engines for irrigation purposes. About 75 per cent of them had radio sets and oil engines while 25 per cent owned tractors, motor cycles or scooters, etc. Most of them had gold and silver ornaments. This group of cultivators had the highest percentage of literacy, 89 among the males and 77 among the females.

Non-Agriculturists

There are other classes among rural population which include village artisans, traders, salaried people, etc. The village artisans include the blacksmith, the carpenter, the cobbler, the potter, the barber, etc., who cater to the needs of the local population. Their earnings depend upon the size of village and the economic condition of the people. These artisans are mostly paid in kind. The traders play an important role in the rural economy. They supply provisions and at times also extend loans, thus playing a role of a money-lender. In certain cases they act as buyers too as they purchase the agricultural produce of the cultivators. They live a fairly comfortable life.

The salaried people in the rural areas of this district mainly consist of school teachers and officials of Panchayat, and Post and Telegraph departments, etc. Most of them had balanced budgets, though nearly 50 per cent of the families were reported in debt. This debt was mostly incurred for meeting a special situation like marriage in the family, higher education for children or a major unforeseen illness in the family. About 82 per cent of the males and 58 per cent of the females in this group were literate.

General Level of Employment

The 1971 Census,¹ assessed the quantum of employment provided by the primary, the secondary and the tertiary sectors of the economy.

1. Census 1971, *Pocket Book of Population Statistics*, pp. 62-65.

The following Statement IX.4 provides the actual percentage of the working force engaged in the sectors mentioned above in the Gandhinagar district. It shows that out of the total working force in the district, 60.94 per cent males and 65.56 per cent females worked as cultivators and as agricultural labourers and 2.93 per cent males and 1.13 per cent females were working in such occupations as livestock, forestry, fishing and other allied activities. This shows that the extent of the dependence on land is very large because there are no large or small industries in the district which can absorb a part of its population. Thus, the only major source of livelihood of the people of this district is, necessarily, agricultural operations.

So far as the secondary sector is concerned, on account of discovery of oil in and around Gandhinagar district 1.00 per cent of males and 0.43 per cent females were engaged in mining and quarry operations. In the household industry, 2.49 per cent males and 1.48 per cent females were engaged. As much as 9.70 per cent males and 10.55 per cent females were engaged in non-household industries. Further in construction, 4.43 per cent males and 4.15 per cent females were engaged in the construction work of the capital township of Gandhinagar.

In the tertiary sector 18.51 per cent males and 16.70 per cent females were engaged. Of these, trade and commerce accounted for 4.88 per cent males and 3.27 per cent females and transport, storage and communications accounted for 2.50 per cent males, and 0.53 per cent females. The largest working force in the tertiary sector was found in other services being 11.13 per cent males and 12.90 per cent females.

The main occupation of the people of this district is agriculture as can be seen from the quantum of working force engaged therein. The total geographical area of the district is limited because it is only one taluka district. It brings out clearly the relative backwardness of the district as there are no major industries. Further trade and commerce have not expanded considerably and there are no minerals except oil. So the horizons to which economic development can expand are obviously limited. The establishment of thermal power station at Pethapur might be able to absorb excess force which is in the absence of any other economic activity, dependent on agriculture.

STATEMENT IX.4

Percentage Distribution of Working Force by Sectors, 1971

| PRIMARY SECTOR | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|---|---------|---|---------|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Total | | As cultivators and agricultural labourers | | In livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities | | | | | |
| Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | | | | |
| 63.87 | 66.69 | 60.94 | 65.56 | 2.93 | | | | 1.13 | |
| SECONDARY SECTOR | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | In mining and quarrying | | At household industry | | Other than household industry | | In construction | |
| Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| 17.62 | 16.61 | 1.00 | 0.43 | 2.49 | 1.48 | 9.70 | 10.55 | 4.43 | 4.15 |
| TERTIARY SECTOR | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | In trade and commerce | | In transport, storage and communications | | In other services | | | |
| Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| 18.51 | 18.70 | 4.88 | 3.27 | 2.50 | 0.53 | 11.14 | 12.90 | | |

Source:

Census 1971, *Pocket Book of Population Statistics*, pp. 62-65.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

सत्यमेव जयते

The Government of India started an organisation named the employment exchange and created the offices at important centres throughout the country from July, 1945 to assist in the resettlement of ex-service personnel and other discharged workers. Nowadays the National Employment Service is available to all the persons, who wish to register themselves for employment and to all the employers, who desire to make use of it for recruitment of personnel to many different jobs. The services rendered by this organisation are briefly described below.

All Employment Exchanges in Gujarat State are functioning under the control and supervision of the State Directorate of Manpower, Employment and Training. Their main functions are to render employment assistance to employment seeker, to find out employment opportunities likely to arise in the area, to assess manpower, recruitment of professional, scientific, skilled and technical workers and to disseminate employment information through the vocational guidance service.

The Employment Exchange at Gandhinagar was opened in June, 1970. According to the Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Rules, 1960, all the establishments in the public sector and those employing 25 or more persons in the private sector have compulsorily to notify their vacancies to the employment exchanges before filling up posts.

Employment opportunities are very limited at Gandhinagar as there are no big industries or private units. Only temporary vacancies in Sachivalaya and other Government offices situated at Gandhinagar are filled either through Public Service Commission or through the Centralised Recruitment Scheme.

The following statement gives the Employment Exchange statistics of the district for the period from 1970 to 1973.

STATEMENT IX.5

Working of the Employment Exchange, Gandhinagar

| Year 1 | Number of candidates registered 2 | Number of vacancies notified 3 | Candidates placed in employment 4 | Number on live register at the end of each period 5 | Number of employers using exchange 6 |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1970 .. 6,152 | 632 | 458 | 6,031 | 220 | |
| 1971 .. 6,809 | 928 | 583 | 7,421 | 309 | |
| 1972 .. 6,255 | 764 | 563 | 6,831 | 342 | |
| 1973 .. 6,055 | 1,063 | 782 | 7,006 | 388 | |

Source :

District Employment Officer, Gandhinagar.

The above statement reveals that the number of educated unemployed is considerable. A majority of these are naturally seeking jobs. To divert them towards job oriented courses, it is necessary to have some short term training facilities at Gandhinagar. The employment has not kept pace with the number of registrants because there is very little industrial development in the district which can absorb these persons. They are, therefore, required to migrate to other centres in search of gainful employment. The proposed thermal power station near Pethapur when augmented will absorb educated youths in future. The Indian Farmer's Fertilisers Co-operative Ltd., Unit at Kalol in the adjoining Mahesana district might be able to absorb a part of the jobless persons, when production is started as per installed capacity.

The statement also reveals that the number of persons placed in employment through the exchange medium was the highest in 1973. Similarly, the number of vacancies notified have also increased which shows that the employers now utilise the exchange medium to get qualified personnel.

NATIONAL PLANNING

The National Planning Committee of the Indian National Congress created an atmosphere for planned development in the country on the achievement of Independence. The Constitution of India promulgated in 1950 provided for the establishment of a Welfare State based on equality of income and opportunity to all citizens in the country. Thereafter, the Planning era commenced in 1951. It aimed at achieving a balanced growth of the economy and also assured an improvement in the standards of living of the people. The Plans opened up new avenues of gainfull employment for the masses and helped ensure a richer and fuller life to the people by developing agriculture, irrigation, industry, transport, social services including education, medical and health services and labour welfare. As a matter of fact, during the First Five Year Plan period, Gujarat did not exist as a separate State. At that time, Saurashtra and Kachchh were separate entities, while the rest of the area comprising the mainland of Gujarat State formed part of the former Bombay State. On the formation of a bigger bilingual Bombay State in 1956, the areas comprising the present Gujarat State were included in it. The Bombay State was, however, bifurcated during the course of the Second Five Year Plan and Gujarat State came into existence from May, 1960 towards the fag end of the Plan. Despite various strains and stresses in the initial stages, the Second Plan of Gujarat was completed with considerable success. The Third Five Year Plan was the first co-ordinated effort for the development of all the areas of Gujarat. The implementation of the Third Plan also proved to be quite satisfactory. With sizeable improvement in the State's resources, the Fourth and Fifth Plan have been formulated for achieving further development in Gujarat.

Perspective Planning

During the President's rule in Gujarat during 1971-72 a Ten-Year Perspective Plan of Gujarat State (1974-84), which veritably coincided with the Fifth and Sixth Plans was prepared. Such a long-term perspective planning is considered indispensable for achieving significant success in the implementation of Plans. The basic objectives of the Perspective Plan are: (1) full employment of the available manpower and natural resources, (2) maximum production in agriculture and industry, (3) equitable distribution of wealth among different segments of the population, specially the weaker sections, (4) balanced development of all regions, and (5) self-reliance in agriculture and industry with maximum import substitution.

District Planning

The concept of Planning from bottom gained ground during the Third Five Year Plan. It was found that formulation of Plans exclusively at the State level did not give sufficient attention to the variety of conditions obtaining in the different regions of the State. The importance of district planning was thus recognised for ensuring the rational utilisation of resources, reduction of intra-regional imbalances as well as proper co-ordination and execution of development programmes.

With the establishment of Panchayati Raj from April 1963, a part of its authority is vested in the Panchayati Raj institutions like the district panchayat, taluka panchayat and the village or *nagar panchayat*.

To help the District Panchayats in the matter of timely formulation of the plan proposals, an Official Committee was appointed to study the problems of planning machinery at the district level both in the district panchayat and in Government and to make suitable recommendations.

Government has also appointed a District Planning Board in each of districts in the State with the District Panchayat President as Chairman. Besides the Members of Parliament and the State Legislature from the district, the District Collector and the District Development Officer are its members. The duties and functions of the District Planning Board are: (1) to study the socio-economic situation of the district continuously, (2) to render advice in the formulation of Five Year Plans, (3) to formulate well-planned and realistic programmes and schemes for ensuring balanced development in different spheres, (4) to give advice to augment financial resources of all the three tiers of Panchayats, (5) to suggest model schemes so as to ensure better planning and implementation of the local schemes from Panchayat's own funds and (6) to undertake a regular and effective review and evaluation of all the district level schemes and programmes.

Under the plans, the State and district plans are thus formulated keeping in view the concept of the Welfare State and implemented through the district administrative machinery which has been geared and greatly strengthened to meet the exigencies of development. For each scheme of development, a target is fixed and the estimates of expenditure are worked-out to achieve the desired social and economic goals. (However, no data on the expenditure incurred in the district under the Five Year Plans are available).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

For the development of socio-economic life of teeming millions of India, a novel experiment, popularly known as the 'Community Development Programme' to be implemented by the rural folk themselves through self and mutual help with assistance from local leadership was inaugurated from 2nd October, 1952, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhiji. The programme aimed at securing a co-ordinated development of rural life as a whole. The programme covers *inter alia* development of agriculture, minor irrigation, rural health and sanitation, communications including village roads, education and small-scale industries, rural arts and crafts, etc.

In the beginning three types of development blocks known as the National Extension Service, Community Development and Post-Intensive blocks were conceived, which marked three different phases of development of the rural areas. The National Extension Service was a preparatory period, when the area was groomed for receiving a heavy dose of development in the subsequent periods. It was felt that thereafter the development generated would be maintained.

But the Community Development programme failed to evoke and enlist the participation of the people to the extent desired, because the local institutions as envisaged could not be developed *pari passu*. It was noticed that there was very little of enthusiasm from the public. The implementation of the programme presented a picture of imposition from outside instead of coming from within the masses. In 1957 the Planning Commission, therefore, appointed the Balwantray Mehta Committee to examine the working of the Community Development Programme and related matters and to recommend measures for improving its quality and content. In pursuance of its recommendation, the distinction between the N.E.S. stage, intensive development stage, and the post-intensive stage was abolished from 1st April, 1958 and all the blocks under all-India programme except blocks in the community development stage, which had then not completed three years, were classified into stage I and stage II blocks with the revised financial pattern and the periods of operation. The community development blocks on completing stage I period would enter stage II. A stage I block has a five year period of operation with a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs. It is the intensive development phase in which the people's participation is to be promoted by a closer association of rural institutions. The degree of success attained during the first stage would be evidenced by the growth and functioning of self-reliant rural communities, which was the basic objective of the programme. After completing stage I, the blocks would enter stage II and then the post-stage II of the programme.

PART V—PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Gandhinagar district as a new administrative unit, consisting of a single taluka, came into existence on 1-12-'64. The district was formed by transferring some villages of the city, Daskroi and Dehgam talukas of Ahmadabad district and Kalol taluka of Mahesana district. The district consists of 79 villages. Because of special and peculiar conditions, the changes in the general pattern of the district administration of the State have been made for Gandhinagar district to suit the administrative exigencies. The historical stages of the evolution of district administration is narrated as under.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Formerly, the functions of the administration were mostly limited to the management of land and preservation of law and order. Both, British and Indian Rulers were not interested in the welfare of the people in general, as such, the administrative structure was more or less, founded on the basis of Police State. The concept of welfare state and socialist state, evolved consequently after Independence and in the course of the adoption of these ideas, the administrative structure grew enormously in complexity.

Before integration of Princely States in 1949, a part of the territory of the present Gandhinagar district was under Ahmadabad district of Bombay Province and part of it was under Kadi Sub-division of Mahesana Prant of Baroda State. Baroda State then was in direct political relation with the Government of India and all communications, however, passed through the Resident. The State followed British pattern of District Administration and as such, the echelons and hierarchy of Baroda State conformed to those of the British regime. However, variations in designation were made to suit local conditions and needs. The ruler was the fountain-head of all authority and power in the State. He had, however, delegated wide powers to the Executive Council, the Legislative Assembly and the Judiciary, reserving to himself important questions involving the policy. The State was divided into 4 Prants corresponding to the districts of the British

territory and each Prant was sub-divided into 3 sub-divisions of Kadi, Patan and Visnagar. Kadi sub-division included the talukas of Kadi, Kalol, Vijapur, Dehgam and peta taluka of Atarsumba. The villages of this district which were under Ex-Baroda State were in Kadi sub-division.

At the district level, Collector in the British territory and Suba in former Baroda State was in charge of the District (prant). He was assisted by Assistant Collector or Naib-Suba. At taluka level, the Mamlatdar was in charge of a taluka of the British district and Vahivatdar or Tehsildar was in charge of a taluka of Ex-Baroda State. Mahalkari was in charge of the Peta Mahal. The Commissioner of British administration and Sir Suba of Baroda State supervised the work of Collectors/Subas.

At the village level under Ex-Baroda State, the Patel was the lowest functionary in the administration. In between Vahivatdar and Patel, there was a main functionary called Tajvijdar who was the counter part of Circle-Inspector. Since 1902 in the villages of the former Baroda State, Panchayat was formerly constituted for each village with a population exceeding 1,000 (smaller hamlets being grouped together) in villages of the Baroda State. The number of members of Panchayats varied from 5 to 9, half of them being appointed by the District Officers and half selected. Patel or Headman was the president and the accountant and the School Master were Ex-Officio members. These bodies were in charge of the various matters connected with the administration and formed part of the scheme for the Local Self Government in former Baroda State.

At the district level, the district and the Sessions Judge was the Head of the District Judiciary. He was assisted by a number of Judges at taluka level.

The police set-up of the district, during the Baroda State rule strikingly resembled the present day police set-up at the district level. The District Superintendent of Police was the Head of the police administration. The Police Sub-Inspector was incharge of the Sub-division, Fauzdar was incharge of taluka and Naib Fauzdar was incharge of the small Thana.

After integration, the administrative structure was radically changed to meet and fulfil aims and objectives of the free democratic Government. The administrative structure was changed both in content, size and spirit. Instead of emphasizing on the functions of revenue collection and law and order, the State has become a welfare State. In October, 1952, the administration was made development oriented by introduction of the Community

Development Programme. In order to secure greater participation of the people in implementation of the development programmes, the Panchayati Raj with three-tiers was introduced with effect from 1st April, 1963, under the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961.

The evolution of the administrative machinery in the present form may be considered into three distinct phases. During the first phase, the entire structure of the administration was reorganised on the basis of a district, which became a principal unit of administration with intermediate functionaries at the taluka and the village levels. The villages of Gandhinagar district during the period were either in Ahmadabad district or in the Mahesana district. During the second phase, attempts were made to give a new form to the public administration in order to implement the ideals of the Welfare State by making the administrative machinery development-oriented and by increasing the association of the people in development activities. During the final phase, the administrative set-up was decentralized to suit the changing needs of the times in tune with the socialistic pattern of society. These phases are dealt with below :

With the district as the principal unit of administration the Collector became the key functionary and the pivot of administration, instead of the principal district officer responsible for the collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order. He had manifold functions to perform. In the administration of land revenue, he was concerned not only with the maintenance of land records, collection of land revenue and administering the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, but also with the implementation of land reforms which were introduced immediately after integration to do away with numerous special land tenures, levies and perquisites which hampered agricultural production. As the judiciary was separated from the executive, his judicial powers were mainly magisterial and restricted to the maintenance of law and order in the district. On the development side, he co-ordinated the activities of various other departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Social Welfare, etc.

The second phase began with the increasing association of the public with the welfare activities undertaken by the State under the Community Development Programme. The Collector was also the Chairman of the District Development Board, which looked after the development work in rural areas, particularly in the field of agriculture, irrigation, community development, co-operation, social education, panchayats, etc. A further step in the direction of popular association and local self Government was taken by the establishment and reorganisation of panchayats in villages or

groups of villages with a view to associating the people in the village administration. They were thus enabled to take active interest in works of public welfare and utility, and accelerate the pace of developmental activities for the amelioration of the conditions of the village people. Panchayats were also invested with powers to try petty criminal offences and certain civil disputes.

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ

The third phase in the evolution of the administrative structure was reached when the Gujarat Panchayats Act of 1961 was enforced with effect from 1st April, 1963, with a view to democratising the entire administrative machinery from the village to the district level. The main objective of the Panchayati Raj is to enable the people of each area to achieve intensive and continuous development for the entire population. It offers new avenues of service to the people rather than opportunities for exercise of authority. It comprehends both the democratic institutions and the extension services through which the development programmes are executed. For this purpose, the integrity of the structure of technical and administrative services need to be fully ensured. This revolutionary change in the administrative set-up led to the bifurcation of functions and responsibilities of the Collector, who now retains certain powers in respect of land revenue administration, maintenance of law and order, elections, civil supply and other subjects not transferred to the Panchayati Raj bodies. All the development activities, which were formerly within his charge as well as some of the functions under the Land Revenue Code, have, as will be seen later in the Chapter on 'Local Self-Government' been transferred to the Panchayati Raj bodies constituted under the Gujarat Panchayats Act.

Under this set-up, there are 3 tiers, namely the District Panchayat, the Taluka Panchayat and the Gram or Nagar Panchayat. The principal executive officer of the District Panchayat is the District Development Officer, mainly drawn from the Indian Administrative Service. The Taluka Development Officer is likewise the principal officer at the level of the Taluka Panchayat and the Secretary, Gram Panchayat, at the village level. After the formation of Gandhinagar district, because of peculiar condition and for administrative exigencies, the set-up has been suitably changed.

ROLE OF THE COLLECTOR

The Collector used to be the pivot of the district administration. He is recognised as the agent of Government in the district for all purposes

whether he is specially empowered or not. Because of the overriding importance of his big role as well as his proximity to the people, he was considered as the ultimate point of reference and redressal of grievances. Besides supervising the collection of land revenue, the duties of collection of excise and other special taxes and the stamp revenue also devolved upon him (the Collector) as the executive head of the district. Before the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, came into force in April, 1963, he co-ordinated the work of different departments and ensured implementation of the development schemes in the district. But on the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the collection of land revenue has been entrusted to the Village Panchayats. However, the Collector remains responsible for implementation of the land reforms, laws and the collection of fees, dues, etc., recoverable as arrears of land revenue under various Acts such as the Bombay Irrigation Act (1879), the Bombay Entertainment Duty Act (1923), the Bombay Electricity Duty Act (1958) and the Gujarat Education Cess Act (1962). There are also other Acts, which provide for recoveries of other Government dues as arrears of land revenue. Under the Bombay Prohibition Act (1949), the Collector is empowered to issue permits to liquor and drug addicts and recover assessment fees from shops permitted to sell liquor and drugs. He is also the Chairman of the Prohibition Committee of the district. Over and above these major functions, the Collector is entrusted with the work of watching the proper implementation of the district level plan schemes retained with the State after introduction of the Panchayat Raj.

Apart from the above civil functions, the Collector has to perform duties as the District Magistrate under Section 17(1) of the Bombay Police Act (XXII of 1951). The District Superintendent of Police and the Police force of the District are under the control of the District Magistrate. The District Superintendent of Police, who is the executive head of the police, exercises general powers subject to the orders of the District Magistrate. Besides being in control of the Police, the Collector, as District Magistrate, has extensive powers under the Criminal Procedure Code and for proper administration of jails and sub-jails. In his capacity as the District Magistrate, he is concerned with the issue of licences and permits under the Indian Arms Act (1958), the Petroleum Act (1934), the Explosives Act (1884), and the Poisons Act (1919). Under the Factories Act, 1948, the District Magistrate is an Inspector for his district, in which capacity he has powers of inspection and supervision of factories, magazines, etc.

Prior to 1962, the District Treasury was under the overall charge of the Collector, to whom the District Treasury Officer was subordinate. He was responsible for all the cash, stamps, etc., received in the Treasury as also for the proper maintenance of accounts. The Sub-Treasury establishments

at the taluka headquarters formed part of the revenue establishments in the district. However, from 1st April, 1962, the Sub-Treasury establishment was separated from the Revenue Administration and placed under the administrative control of the Director of Accounts and Treasuries working under the Finance Department. The Collector, however, continues to exercise general powers and functions as the head of the district administration. The Treasury is, thus, under the direct control of the Finance Department, though the Collector exercises supervision over it as required under the Bombay Treasury Rules.

Among the quasi-judicial functions of the Collector, over and above the hearing of appeals from the Prant Officers under the Land Revenue Code and various other revenue laws, the following may be mentioned : (1) revisional powers under section 23 of the Mamlatdars' Courts Act, which are delegated to an Assistant or Deputy Collector; (2) functions which the Collectors perform in connection with the execution of Civil Court decrees; (3) proceedings and awards under section 11 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 ;(4) cases under the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) Act, and (5) powers exercised as District Magistrate under the Preventive Detention Act, when it was in force.

Besides land revenue, land reforms and magisterial work, the Collector is in-charge of various important duties connected with civil supplies, small savings, land acquisition, elections to the District Panchayat, Census, etc. As a District Registrar, he controls work of registration of documents within the district, supervises the work of Sub-Registrar at the taluka levels and ensures proper performance of their duties as per the Indian Registration Act. Under the Famine Relief Code, 1951, the Collector is required to keep himself at all times informed about the agricultural conditions within the district, to organize relief measures. With a view to accelerating the tempo of development of industries in the district and to achieve more effective co-ordination in providing infrastructure facilities to industries, Government has designated Collector as *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries and delegated to him certain functions and powers for allotment of factory sheds and open plots in the Government industrial estates, formulation of the District Master Plans and co-ordination of activities of various heads of offices and departments. Even after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, the Collector has to carry out Jamabandhi audits of Taluka Panchayats and villages.

Collector's Office—For the work of Gandhinagar district the arrangement of the Collector's Office is as under. There are four branches in the Collector's office, viz., (i) Revenue, (ii) Superintendent, (iii) Civil Supply and (iv) Magisterial Branch.

There is only one taluka headed by Mamlatdar who assists the Collector in all related matters. He is the head of the revenue administration at the taluka level. He is for his charge what the Collector is for the district. By virtue of his office, he is the Assistant Custodian of the Evacuee property under the Bombay Evacuee (Administration of Property) Act of 1949. He is the Taluka Magistrate and conducts proceedings under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Judiciary—Another important department at the district level is the Judicial Department headed by the District and Sessions Judge, who exercises jurisdiction in matters Civil, Criminal and Appellate. One noteworthy feature of the judicial administration in the Baroda State regime was the separation of the judicial and executive functions. The appeals in which capital punishment was awarded were heard by the ruler himself. After the merger of the Baroda State with the State of Bombay, the judicial powers were also exercised by the Mamlatdars as Second Class Magistrates and Resident First Class Magistrates and Judicial First Class Magistrates under the supervision and control of the District Magistrate. After separation of the judiciary from the executive from 1st April 1953, the judicial work is controlled and supervised by the District and Sessions Judge. In the begining the cases of the villages which were formerly under Mahesana district were tried in the Mahesana District Court. Similarly, the cases of the villages which were formerly under Ahmadabad district were tried by the Ahmadabad District Court. The District Court was established on 15-2-1978. All cases of this district now are tried in this Court.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

In the Panchayati Raj, the District Development Officer is appointed from the cadre of the Indian Administrative Service. The executive powers of the District Panchayat for carrying out the provisions of the Act vest in him. Subject to the orders of the President of the District Panchayat, he exercises all the powers as the Chief Executive Officer in regard to the administration and execution of development programmes, the details of which will be found in Chapter—XIV Local-Self-Government.

DISTRICT LEVEL OFFICERS

The general pattern of administration has been transformed after integration. Besides, Revenue, Judiciary and Police which were the principal departments in the past, the departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, Rural Development, Panchayats, Public Works, Social Welfare and Education are now functioning with enlarged powers and resources under the District Panchayat, having their functionaries at various levels of administration.

The following is the list of officers functioning at the district level:

| | <i>Location</i> |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (1) The Collector, | Ahmadabad |
| (2) The District and Sessions Judges, | Ahmadabad, Mahesana |
| (3) The Civil Surgeon, | Gandhinagar |
| (4) The Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Public Works Department, | Gandhinagar |
| (5) The District Education Officer, | Gandhinagar |
| (6) The District Treasury Officer, | Ahmadabad |
| (7) The District Superintendent of Police, | Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad rural |
| (8) The District Registrar, Co-operative Societies, | Ahmadabad |
| (9) The District Employment Officer, | Gandhinagar |
| (10) The District Information Officer, | Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar |
| (11) The District Inspector of Land Records, | Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar |
| (12) The District Social Welfare Officer, | Kheda, Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar |
| (13) The Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, | Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar |
| (14) The Medical Officer, Malaria Unit, | Gandhinagar |

OFFICERS UNDER THE DISTRICT PANCHAYAT

After enforcement of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, in the district and with the transfer of many departmental schemes, a number of district level functionaries have been brought under Panchayat Administration. These officers are under the administrative control of the Collector, but for technical supervision, they are under the control of their own heads of departments at the State level. The following is the list of officers working under Panchayati Raj.

| | <i>Location</i> |
|---|---------------------------|
| (1) The District Development Officer, | Gandhinagar |
| (2) The District Agriculture Officer, | Gandhinagar |
| (3) The Administrative Officer, Education, | Gandhinagar |
| (4) The District Health Officer, | Gandhinagar |
| (5) The District Family Planning Medical Officer, | Gandhinagar |
| (6) The District Animal Husbandry Officer, | Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad |
| (7) The District Statistical Officer, | Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad |

STATE LEVEL OFFICES

Gandhinagar being capital of Gujarat State all Secretariate departments and some important State Level offices are located in Gandhinagar township.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

In addition to State offices, there are several offices of the Central Government located in this district. These offices are listed below:

| | <i>Location</i> |
|---|---|
| (1) The Superintendent of Post Offices. | Gandhinagar |
| (2) The Superintendent of Central Excise, | Randheja range, Dahegam range and Kalol range |
| (3) The Regional Cement Officer. | Gandhinagar |
| (4) The Principal, Central School. | Gandhinagar |



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CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION DURING EARLY DAYS

From time immemorial, land revenue has been the sheet anchor of the Government. Even after diversification of taxes, land revenue provides a large amount of the revenue to the State. Upon the incidence of the land revenue depends the prosperity or otherwise of cultivators of the district. Welfare and prosperity of the agricultural classes are, therefore, intimately connected with the settlement of land revenue.

The history of the revenue administration in the Gandhinagar district may be divided into the following two broad categories, viz., (i) history of the villages of Baroda State areas of Kalol and Dehgam talukas and (ii) history of the villages of Daskroi taluka of Ahmadabad district. In respect of Baroda areas following measures were undertaken:

- (1) The revenue administration system in the Kalol taluka of former Baroda areas was changing according to the requirements of the State. For some time *bhagbatai* system operated while later on farming or Ijardar system was introduced.
- (2) Maharaja Khanderao's measures for reforming Ijardar system,
- (3) Maharaja Malharrao's Kamavisadar System, and
- (4) Sir T. Madhayrao's reforms.

(I) The Revenue Administration in the Former Baroda State Areas¹

All the villages of Kalol and Dehgam talukas formed part of old Baroda State. The early revenue administration system of Kalol taluka of Kadi Prant and Dehgam taluka is, therefore, viewed in the background of the entire system of State.

A revenue survey was first introduced in Gujarat in 1576 by Raja Todar Mal, the famous Revenue Minister of Akbar. Lands subject to assessment were measured and assessed. A third of the estimated value of

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, 1923.

the produce was demanded as revenue and payments in cash were substituted for payments in kind. When a regular survey could not be made, fields were inspected when the crops were ripe for harvesting and were assessed according to their estimated value. The payment in kind or *bhugbatai* system, however, lingered in some parts of Gujarat and became universal with the decline of the Mughal power and the establishment of the Maratha rule. The collection of the Baroda State revenue was farmed out to farmers who collected what they could from village communities and paid the stipulated amount to the State. Grants were made by the State from time to time as inam to favoured individuals or to religious and charitable institutions and thus entire villages and large portions of assessable village lands became alienated. Maharaja Khanderao established an Inam Committee in 1862, and refused to acknowledge, alienated lands sold or mortgaged after 1827. He also introduced a survey settlement on the basis of the Bombay system, abolished the farming system and established the revenue administration for the collection of revenue. The survey was neither accurate nor fair. Measurements were far from correct. Lands were entered as assessable in excess of their actual areas. Maps were only made for assessable lands and not for the alienated lands and villages. The land was classed into three classes but the assessment was mere guess work. Particular classes of people, who were lazy or backward were assessed more lightly than the more industrious classes.

There was no improvement under Maharaja Malharao. Revenue was once more farmed to the big guns at the court and their agents were under little control in respect of their dealings with villagers. It was in 1881-82 when the Maharaja Sayajirao III assumed the reins of the administration that the new survey and settlement were introduced. A proclamation was issued in 1883 forbidding alienation of lands.

The Original and Revision Settlement Reports of the former Kadi Prant throw considerable light on the revenue administration obtaining in the district prior to the merger.

(a) *Bhagbatai System*¹—By ancient custom, the Ruler was entitled to a share of the produce of the cultivated lands. The Government share, the *Rajbhag* was ascertained by examining either the standing crop in the field or the cut crops on the village threshing ground. The usual plan was to bring the crops as they were reaped to the *Khalwad*. It was allowed there to remain until all State demands were satisfied. This system did not entirely meet the exigencies of administration. However, this system continued in Gujarat, and with the decline of the Mughal power and the establishment of Maratha rule, it became universal.

1. DESAI, G. H. AND CLARENCE A.B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, (1923), pp. 2-3.

(b) *Farming or Ijardar System*—The land revenue system of the early Marathas consisted in entrusting the collection of the State revenue to particular agents. Villages and districts were farmed out to the highest bidders, who collected what they could from the village communities, and paying the stipulated sum to the State, pocketed the balance. There were Desais, Mazmudars, Amins, and Patels who performed different duties. The Patel and the Talati had to see that justice was done to his village in revenue matters and the Desais and Mazmudars performed the same duties for the district. It was the duty of these officers to superintend the improvement of the *Pargana*, to make the *Lavni abadi* or the preparation for sowing and to settle *Jamabandi* or other rates of assessment. These local officers were called the Watandars. The Maratha Government did not interfere with the old village system, but simply superimposed machinery by which money might be collected and a few general services to the public be rendered. However, the system was not free from certain evils and the poor farmer was heavily taxed.

(2) *Maharaja Khanderao's Measures for Reforming Ijardar System*

Maharaja Khanderao aimed at abolishing the farming system. He initiated a three-pronged action, viz., (1) he made an onslaught on the holders of *inam* lands, (2) he introduced a revenue survey substituting a fixed money payment and a ten-year settlement for the old levies in kind and (3) he introduced a new system of management. The land was classed *aval*, *doyan* and *soyam*; 1st, 2nd and 3rd according to its nature and degree of fertility. In the taluka, the rate varied in case of first class from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8, for the second class from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 and for the third class from Rs. 2 to 3 per *bigha*.

Maharaja Khanderao's survey was, however, very defective, and what good there was in it rapidly disappeared owing to the carelessness of the executive and the retrograde action of his successor.

(3) *Maharaja Malharrao's Kamavisdar System*¹

"It remained for Maharaja Malharrao to introduce a system even worse than the Izara. The management of districts and revenues were granted by His Highness to certain court favourites who then became Kamavisdars. For instance Kamasaheb. His Highness's daughter was Kamavisdar for customs. Nanaheb Khanwekar managed Patan".² These people did not actually do anything themselves; but they entrusted all the business to clerks who were chosen not for their ability but for their willingness to cook up accounts. It was just possible that an Izardar who was noto-

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, (1923), p. 13.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 13.

riously bad might be punished; but a powerful court favourite could not. An Ijardar was liable to meet with competition, a Kamvisdar was not. The former had at any rate been bound to pay the Government a fixed sum for his farm whereas the Kamavisdar was simply supposed to collect what he could. He of course cooked up his accounts, collected as much as he was able and paid into Government treasury as little as he could.

(4) *Sir T. Madhvrao's Reforms¹*

When, therefore, on the dethronement of Maharaja Malharrao and during the minority of His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao III, Raja, Sir. T. Madhvrao's administration came into existence, it had to deal rapidly with an extremely complicated situation.

Sir T.Madhvrao introduced a number of reforms from 1875 onwards. The process of summary reduction of the land assessment was completed. Besides the summary reduction of the land tax, the ryots were freed from the *gadi nazarna* and several undefined exactions of *izardars* or farmers and also from those of unscrupulous *sardars* and officers. A simple system of accounts was introduced. A fixed demand for a certain number of years was made on certain villages paying a lump sum.

(5) *Abolition of Special Land Tenures*

During the time of Maharaja Sayajirao III, many important reforms such as the scientific survey of the land and equitable settlement of rates, making of rules and regulation and inquiries into the *Gharania*, *Vechania* and other unauthorised alienations were undertaken. Some old systems of land revenue such as *Holbandhi*, *Ankdabandhi*, *Mehvasi* and *Adania* were abolished.

Villages of Dehgam Taluka—Dehgam taluka was formerly called Bahayyal from the name of the village of that name in which the *mahal katchery* was located. However, Maharaja Khanderao during his tour through these parts in 1863 transferred the seat of the *mahal katchery* to Dehgam and changed the name of the taluka to Dehgam.

The original survey settlement was sanctioned by the Maharaja in the year 1895. The period of lease was fifteen years. There were at that time in both Dehgam and Atarsumba 126 Government villages. The revision and settlement of Dehgam and of Atarsumba was sanctioned in the 1916 and had been fixed for 30 years.

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, (1923), p. 13.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN THE VILLAGES OF DASKROI TALUKA¹

The early history of revenue management of the taluka is very fully described by Mr. Prescott in his Report on the Original Settlement of the Daskroi taluka some of whose villages form part of the Gandhinagar district at present. Before the Muslim conquest of Gujarat, according to the Report, most villages appeared to have paid their revenue whether directly to the Anhilwar Sovereign or to any tributary chieftain in the shape of a certain fixed proportion of the actual produce of cultivated lands.

After the Muslim conquest of Gujarat, the Government managed and levied revenue from villages either directly or indirectly. In the district further removed from the seat of power and in which consequently the authority of Government was weakened by distance, the Rajputs or Koli chiefs were permitted under the name of Talukadars to certain possession of their estates on payment of a tribute or in other cases, as in that of Dholka Kasbatis, the powerful Mussalmans or others not originally the chiefs or villages were granted Mahals upon lease. However, in the areas more immediately exposed to the power of Government, the Rajputs Chieftains were only permitted to retain as private estates under the name of 'Vanta', a fourth part of the lands of their villages, the Government assuming the direct management of the remainder of "talpad". As a result, in the tract immediately surrounding Ahmadabad, there were no Talukadars or Mehvasi villages in the Daskroi taluka.

In Daskroi, the original system of assessment was crop-division, one-third to Government and two-thirds to the cultivator. Without entirely doing away with the crop-division, Todar Mai (1590) had introduced a money acre-rate (*bighoti*) fixed partly on the character of the soil and partly on that of the crop, partly from the unsettled state of the country, partly from the heaviness of the Maratha demand, crop-share remained in some villages and acre-rates in others. In the third group, crop-shares and acre-rates were mixed, and in the fourth, revenue was chiefly collected in cesses. At the time of its cession to the British, the taluka was leased out to the highest bidder. Lease system was given up and money acre-rates were introduced gradually. At the time of survey, the forms of assessment were therefore many and varied.

The survey rates were too high and proposals were made to lower them. According to Capt. Cruikshank, irrigation was the prime need of the district. In order to help irrigation, he suggested that the rates on wet crop land should be lowered and that remission of rent for a term of year should be granted when the cultivator agreed to build a well.

1. PATEL G. D (Dr.), *The Land Revenue Settlement and the British Rule in India*, (1969), p. 22-23.

From 1825 A.D. to 1830 A.D. the fall in prices checked the rapid spread of tillage that had marked the first years of the British rule. Still, Sir John Malcolm found the state of the district satisfactory in 1830. He noticed that Mr. Elphinstones' changes had worked well and that the condition of the proprietary classes had improved.

Period from 1820-1860 and Onwards

During the period between the first and the second survey, two chief changes were made in the mode of levy of land revenue. The first was in 1822, when the Government share of the crop was taken in money instead of in grain. The second was in 1837, when instead of a payment based on the value of the crop, a money rate on the value of the crop was charged. Between 1828 and 1859, the chief changes in cultivation were a steady decline from 58,357 acres in 1829 to 23,268 acres in 1833, then a rise to 47,161 acres in 1835 and from that a steady rise to 60,925 acres in 1840 and then a gradual rise to 63,000 acres. In 1828, 55,333 acres were under tillage and the increase to 59,684 in 1859 was one of 7.87% only.

The main changes in the revenue management of the district may be stated as follows. To begin with, the settlement of the revenue was made directly with the villagers instead of with the village headmen. This measure had two objects in view. It aimed first at abolition of the farming system and undermining of the influence of the headmen and secondly, at gradual introduction of the ryotwari system. The gradual replacement of the *bhag-batai* system by levy of money acre-rates was the second change. This was facilitated by the survey of Capt. Cruikshank and Lieut. Melvil. This method was adopted with a view to putting the land revenue on a stable basis. Lastly, the rates were revised gradually as inequalities came to light. Thus, the ryotwari system was imperceptibly introduced, without the ryots experiencing the shock of a switch-over from the farming system and paved the ground for the introduction of the survey and settlement in 1853.

FUNCTIONS OF THE LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

In 1884, when the original survey and settlement operations in the Bombay State were completed the old Survey and Settlement Department was closed and the Land Records Department was created as an adjunct to the Revenue Department. The Land Records Department is now a separate department of Gujarat State and is an adjunct to the Revenue Department. At the State level, the department is headed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records. For Administrative purposes the State is divided into circles each in charge of a Superintendent of Land Records, who has under him Inspectors of Land Records functioning at the district level.

The functions of the Land Records Department are (1) to maintain all survey, classification and settlement records up-to-date by keeping careful notes of all changes, and for this purpose to carry out field operations preliminary to incorporation of the changes in the survey records, (2) to collect and provide statistics necessary for the sound administration of all matters connected with land, (3) to help reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in revenue and civil courts by providing reliable survey and other records, (4) to supervise the preparation and maintenance of records of Rights and, of the periodical inspection of boundary marks, (5) to conduct periodical revision and settlement operations, (6) to organise and carry out village-site and city survey on an extensive scale and arrange for their proper maintenance, (7) to undertake special surveys for private individual and public bodies, surveys in connection with railways, municipal and local projects, town planning schemes, and survey for the Defence and other Government departments, (8) to maintain up-to-date village, taluka and district maps, reprint them and arrange for their distribution to various Government departments for administrative purpose and sale to the public, and (9) to train revenue officers in survey and settlement matters.

The District Inspector of Land Records, Gandhinagar is the principal officer in charge of the Land Records Department in the district. He is a gazetted officer (of a Mamlatdars rank) appointed by the Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records, Ahmadabad and is directly subordinate to the Superintendent of Land Records, Ahmadabad Circle, Ahmadabad in all technical matters. He is also subordinate to the Collector of Ahmadabad and has to carry out all administrative orders of the Collector in the matter of survey and land records.

RECORDS OF RIGHTS

The Record of Rights has been introduced in the villages of the district. After survey, the Land Records Department supplies the *mapni* or survey register and map to the revenue officials for compilation of Records of Rights. Section 135B (1) of the Land Revenue Code provides that the Record of Rights should contain the following particulars.

- (a) names of all persons who are holders, occupants, owners, or assignees of the land or assignees of the rent or revenue thereof;
- (b) the nature and extent of the respective interests of such persons and conditions or liabilities attached thereto;
- (c) rent or revenue, if any payable by or to any such person, and
- (d) such other particulars as the State Government may prescribe under the Land Revenue Rules.

The State Government has now applied these provisions to all tenancies by notification under Section 135B (2) of the Code, whereunder any acquisition of rights to land is to be reported to the village officer within 3 months by the person acquiring it, unless the right is acquired under a registered document.

Village Maps

Village maps are drawn for all the surveyed villages showing survey numbers, their boundary marks and other topographical details such as roads, rivers, nullas, forests, hills, from the detailed tippans of individual survey numbers. They are generally drawn on scale of 1"=20 chains=one furlong or 201.17 meters. From these village maps, taluka and district maps are constructed on a scale of 1"=2 miles. A district map requires revision due to territorial changes and development work such as construction of new roads, canals, railways, hospitals, *bundhas*, dams, etc., undertaken under various plan schemes.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE AND OTHER CESSES CONNECTED WITH IT

Land revenue is one of the stable source of income in the district. The table shows the demand, collection, remission and suspension of land revenue for the years 1971-72, 1972-73 and 1973-74.

*Land Revenue Demand, Collection, etc., for the years 1971-72,
1972-73 and 1973-74*

| Item 1 | 1971-72 | | 1972-73 | | 1973-74 | |
|---------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | Rs. 2 | P. .. | Rs. 3 | P. .. | Rs. 4 | P. .. |
| 1. Demand | 16,46,784.11 | | 13,94,526.28 | | 15,96,044.64 | |
| 2. Collection | 6,13,466.47 | | 2,70,118.93 | | 93,53,154.25 | |
| 3. Remission | 1,25,079.93 | | 80,811.04 | | 66,619.00 | |
| 4. Suspension | .. | | 1,14,912.11 | | .. | |

Source :

The Mamlatdar, Gandhinagar District, Gandhinagar.

From the table it is observed that there was decrease in original demand in 1972-73 as compared to the year 1971-72. However, in 1973-74 there was a slight increase in gross consolidated original demand. The reason for decrease was mainly due to cancellation of grant of non-agricultural land, cancellation of grant of Government waste land and discontinuance of *eksali* leases. In respect of collection the performance was poor. This is evident from the statistics of all the years.

The Local Fund Cess

The local fund cess is levied under Section 93 of the Bombay District Local Boards Act, 1923. It was formerly collected by the Revenue Department alongwith land revenue. But after the implementation of the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, it is collected by the village panchayats as the functions of collecting land revenue and local fund cess have been transferred to the panchayats. The cess which was first levied at the rate of 20 paise on every rupee of land revenue is now levied at the enhanced rate of 50 paise from 1st July, 1966.

In the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961, a provision has been made for levy of an additional cess. At the request of the gram and nagar panchayats, the State Government may levy an additional cess up to 25 paise on every rupee of land revenue payable to Government in the area within jurisdiction of such panchayats. If such panchayat undertakes for the benefit of the community any special work or project which is to be completed within a specified period and for which additional funds are needed, it may pass a resolution at its meeting and after obtaining previous permission of the district panchayat, apply to the State Government to increase the rate up to 100 per cent in the land revenue payable to the State Government as ordinary land revenue.

The total demand of local fund cess in 1974-75 was Rs. 15,20,946 while the total collection was Rs. 2,77,846.

The Irrigation Cess

The irrigation cess is an annual charge payable by every land owner of cultivable area under command of a canal system. This cess is a fixed charge per acre and is not liable to variation from year to year. It was levied on old irrigation works with effect from 13th February, 1954, while incase of new irrigation works it was decided to make the cess payable after three years from the commencement of the irrigation. It was found that farmers did not utilise the full irrigation potential. In order to pressurise recalcitrant cultivators to use irrigation facilities, compulsory irrigation cess at the rate of Rs. 2.50 per acre per annum is being levied with effect from 13th February, 1963 on all lands within the command of irrigation works, irrespective of the fact whether irrigation water is used or not. This compulsory levy is primarily meant to cover the working expenses of the canal system. No such cess is however, collected with effect from 14th February, 1970 as per the judgement of the Gujarat High Court declaring Section 56E as illegal on the Writ Petition of certain cultivators.

The Education Cess

After the formation of the separate State of Gujarat, for promotion of education, a surcharge on agricultural and non-agricultural lands was levied

by enacting the Gujarat Education Cess Act, 1962. The Act came into force from 1st August, 1962. An Education Cess Fund has been created out of the receipts from (1) the surcharge on all lands, agricultural and non-agricultural, assessed to land revenue and (2) tax on lands and buildings in urban areas. A surcharge of 20 per cent is levied with effect from 1st August, 1962 on agricultural lands which are assessed or held for the purpose of agriculture and not used for any purpose unconnected with agriculture. A surcharge varying from $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 75 per cent of non-agricultural assessment is levied on all unalienated lands subject to non-agricultural assessment and on all alienated lands (excluding village sites) used for purpose other than agriculture. These rates have been brought into force from 1st August, 1962.

In the urban areas, the lands and buildings are liable to rates of tax which vary from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the annual letting value of the property. These rates have come into force from 1st October, 1965.

The surcharge levied on agricultural as well as non-agricultural lands is transferred at the end of the year to the State Education Cess Fund and utilised on schemes for promotion of education in the State. During 1963-64, Government had directed that one-third of the tax collected on lands and buildings within the municipal areas should be given to the municipalities as grant with effect from 1st August, 1962, the date from which the tax has been levied.

Bhoodan Movement

In the district some progress was made in Bhoodan movement when it was started. However, its impact died out with the passage of time.

LAND REFORMS

The twin objectives of land reforms are the stepping-up of the agricultural production by removing impediments to production and the establishment of a socialistic order of society. So far as the Gandhinagar district is concerned, after Independence, various measures for the land reforms have been undertaken. The Gandhinagar district as it exist to-day is the product of merger of territories of the former Baroda State, other States and Estates and the pre-merger Bombay State areas.

Before Independence, in these areas there were various special *inams* and non-tyotwari land tenures on which land was held. These tenures were a product of long evolution determined by the geographical, economic, social and political conditions prevailing at different times of history of the district. They originated in the exigencies of administration and the overriding consideration of political expediency.

In order to gain political support, the leading men of the villages or groups of villages in the district such as Inamdars, Paragana Watandars, Jagirdars, etc. were selected and given *inams* in the form of entire villages, lands, revenues and cash allowances.

With the unification of India under the British regime and with the advent of Independence, the political need for continuing those Inamdaras, Watandars and Jagirdars, who were intermediaries between Government and actual tillers of the soil, did not survive. Such intermediaries outlived their utility in the new democratic set-up.

As a result, Government of India laid down a policy for removal of all such intermediaries from the land administration by enacting special legislation. In furtherance of this policy, the former Government of Bombay enacted special legislation for abolition of the *inams*, *watans* and non-ryotwari tenures. In the Gandhinagar district there were *inams*, *watans*, and non-ryotwari tenures.

The non-ryotwari tenures showed a medley of tenures arising out of different political conditions. Out of them the Talukadars were the most important. The Talukadars were not the grantees of the British. Their lands were neither alienated nor unalienated. Apart from Talukadars, there were *jagirs*. The *jagirs* covered a maze of entire villages alienated by the rulers of States, non-jurisdictional Thakors and estate-holders who executed the *zamindars* agreements on integration in 1948-49. It included grants of entire villages made by or recognised by Government.

1. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948.
2. The Bombay Merged Territories (Ankadia Tenure Abolition) Act, 1953.
3. The Bombay Merged Territories Matadari Tenure abolition Act, 1953.
4. The Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolition Act, 1958.
5. The Gujarat Patel Watans Abolition Act, 1961.
6. The Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969.

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948

The tenancy rights in the district are regulated at present under the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948. In the former Bombay State, there was no special law regulating the relations between landlords and tenants. The relations between the two were mostly governed by mutual

contracts or local usage and customs. The provisions of section 83 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879 constituted the tenancy law of the State. With a view to safeguarding the rights of tenants in the Bombay State, the first tenancy legislation called the Bombay Tenancy Act, 1939 was enacted. This Act introduced a concept of protected tenants for the first time. It also made provision for fixity of tenure, a ceiling on rentals, rights in house-sites and trees and protection from eviction under certain circumstances. After Independence, this Act of 1939 was replaced by a comprehensive legislation in 1948. This Act was amended extensively in 1956, when an amendment to the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 was enacted. It provided that on the 1st April, 1957 described as the 'Tiller's Day', every tenant whether permanent, protected or ordinary, was deemed to have purchased from the landlord the land leased to him subject to the conditions that the tenant cultivated the land personally and his total holdings did not exceed the ceiling areas and the purchase price did not exceed 200 times the assessment. This Act was also amended from time to time as under:

| <i>Act</i> | <i>Date of Implementation</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 (Bombay Act LXVII of 1948) | 28-12-48 |
| 2. -do- XII of 1951 | 24- 4-51 |
| 3. -do- XXIV of 1951 | 16-10-51 |
| 4. -do- XLV of 1951 | 30-11-51 |
| 5. -do- XXXIII of 1952 | 28- 1-53 |
| 6. -do- LX of 1953 | 23-11-53 |
| 7. -do- XIII of 1956 | 1- 8-56 |
| 8. Bombay Ordinance III of 1957 | 2-2-57 |
| 9. -do- XV of 1957 | 3-4-57 |
| 10. -do- XXXVIII of 1957 | 28-9-57 |
| 11. -do- LXIII of 1958 | 11-7-58 |
| 12. Gujarat Act XVI of 1960 | 13-12-60 |
| 13. -do- XXVII of 1961 | 1-9-61 |
| 14. -do- XXXVI of 1965 | 29-12-65 |
| 15. Ordinance No. III of 1969 | 17-7-69 |
| 16. Gujarat Act No. XV of 1969 | 17-7-69 |
| 17. Gujarat Act No. II of 1971. | 9-2-71. |

The original Tenancy Act of 1948 as amended in 1956 made comprehensive provisions for regulation of rent, security of tenure, transfer of ownership to tenants, imposition of ceilings on existing holdings as well as future acquisition, restrictions on transfers of agricultural land, management of cultivated lands, etc., Under the law, the maximum rent which is not to exceed five times the assessment or Rs. 20 per acre shall not be less than twice such assessment and where the amount equal to twice the assessment exceeds the sum of twenty rupees per acre, the rent shall be twice the assessment.

As regards security of tenure, permanent tenants have been given complete security of tenure. Other tenants are given security subject to landlords' rights to resume lands not exceeding 3 economic holdings (12 to 48 acres) on the condition that every tenant retains half the area leased. A small holder is defined as a person who has leased land not exceeding one economic holding and whose total annual income does not exceed Rs. 1,500, He can resume half the area leased from a tenant in all cases. Certain constraints on resumption have been provided. The main constraints are that the income by the cultivation of land on which a person is entitled to take possession is the principal source of income for his maintenance and that the land leased stood in his name or any of his ancestors on 1st January, 1952. If a landlord after terminating the tenancy does not cultivate the land personally within one year of resumption or after having commenced such cultivation discontinues the same within 10 years, the tenant will be entitled to restoration.

Transfer of ownership to permanent tenants was provided to permanent tenants with effect from Tiller's Day, i.e., 1st April, 1957. Other tenants except of small holders were also deemed to have acquired ownership from that day onwards. As regards tenants of small holders, the law was subsequently amended to provide transfer of ownership to tenants in respect of non-resumable lands with effect from 1st April, 1962. During the course of implementation, it came to the notice of Government that in several cases, there was a possibility of purchases by the tenants becoming ineffective due to the tenants absence before the tenancy courts and due to their unwillingness to purchase these lands. In many cases, their purchases were likely to become ineffective due to non-payment of due instalments of purchase price to the landlord. The State Government has, by two important amendments, tried to prevent such ineffective purchases. Under one amendment, the tenants who remained absent before the tenancy-courts and who expressed unwillingness to purchase the land were given an opportunity to apply for purchase of the land, if they had not still been disposed of by submitting an application within one year from 29th December, 1965. By another amendment, the State Government had

extended the period of paying arrears of instalments by three years more. The Government at the same time framed Rules under the Agriculturalists' Loans Act for advancing *tagavi* to assist them in paying the arrear amount of the instalment within the extended period of three years.

Under the Act, there were in all 10,834 cases of which 5,082 cases were under section 32-G and 1,371 cases were under section 32-O. The area of land for the cases of section 32-G admeasured Acres 11,967 and 38 Gunthas, while area for cases under section 32-O was Acres 2,738 and 15 Gunthas. In all the total land admeasuring Acres 14,696 and 13 Gunthas have been given to tenants on payment of occupancy price.

The Bombay Merged Territories (Ankadia Tenure Abolition) Act, 1953

The Ankadia system originated in the difficulties inherent in administering the far-flung and hilly regions of the borderland owing to uncertain political administration of the 18th century in Gujarat. Then, Government of the day badly needed a person, who could control the village, collect revenue, and pay a fixed sum called 'Ankada' to Government. In the villages other than those of Baroda, the amount of Ankada was fixed under a lease for a number years: whereas in Baroda the amount of the Ankada was either fixed for 30 years or 10 years accordingly as the village was Ek Ankada or Farta Ankada. The Baroda villages were further classified into Thakarati and Matadari; but the status accorded to the Ankade-dars of all these villages under the Baroda Ankadia Villages Rules, 1932 was that of revenue farmers without any proprietary interest. In the revenue management of the villages, the Baroda Rules imposed restrictions. To begin with, an Ankadedar could not sell, mortgage or, otherwise alienate the village lands without the permission of the State.

There was a distinguishable difference between the Baroda and non-Baroda Ankadia villages. In the former the main purpose of the Ankada was the revenue management of the villages, whereas in the latter, the police duties predominated. Further, the former villages were classified into Ek Ankadia and Farta Ankadia with sub-divisions into Thakarati and Matadari, whereas the latter were either permanent or periodical.

The Ankadia tenure was abolished with all its incidents with effect from 15-8-1959 by the Bombay Merged Territories (Ankadia Tenure Abolition) Act, 1953. The Baroda Rules of 1932 and all the leases were repealed. The villages were resumed and made liable to payment of full assessment under the Land Revenue Code, 1879. The Devasthan and Dharmada lands

held for institutions and lands held for service useful to Government were not affected by the provisions of the Act. In regard to the Baroda villages, the Ankadedars and Jiwaidars were not dispossessed of the lands in their possession (*gharkhed*), but were recognised as occupants thereof. Cultivators holding lands in respect of which land revenue or rent was payable to the Ankadedar as an incident of the tenure were also recognised as occupants.

For extinguishment or abridgement of any rights of the Ankadedar, compensation was provided for at three times the average of the amount to have been realised annually by the Ankadedar as revenue during the three years immediately before the coming into force of the Act. On this basis, in several cases, no compensation was payable to the former Ankadedars.

In the district the Ankadia Tenure covered 3 villages viz. Chekhlarani, Bhundia and Lekhawada. The Ankedars in these 3 villages used to keep Rs. 3,770 as *Judi* and used to pay Rs. 1,870.17 as *Nuksan* to Government. The tenure covered an area of Acres 5,109 and 21 Gunthas. Consequent upon the abolition of the tenure, Government acquired Acres 1,830 and 14 Gunthas as *Padtar* land. However, in all 747 tenants of Ankadedars were given occupancy rights of land admeasuring Acres 3,133 and 39 Gunthas. In addition to the lands which Government acquired, *gamtal* land (village site) admeasuring Acres 141 and 08 Gunthas came to be vested in Government. Furthermore, under the sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Act Government got additional land admeasuring Acres 1,975 and 22 Gunthas.

The Bombay Merged Territories Matadari Tenure Abolition Act, 1953.

The Matadari tenure was one of the forms of revenue farming methods of revenue administration. The estates were called 'Matadari' and their holders Matadars, because the holders thereof had to sign a bond for payment of the village revenue to the ruling authority.

In this district the villages such as Vadodara and Dabhoda were covered under this tenure. The Act has been implemented with effect from 1st January, 1954. The *inam* villages were removed and made liable to payment of full assessment under the provisions of Land Revenue Code. The total lands under this tenure was 8,853 Acres and 15 Gunthas. Its total land revenue was Rs. 11,573.39 of which Rs. 8,728.22 were treated as *Judi* and Rs. 2,845.17 as *Nuksan*. At present the total land revenue derived after the implementation of this Act from the total area is Rs. 17,108.40. Under this Act 1,363 persons have been given occupancy rights for land admeasuring 7,553 Acres and 05 Gunthas without payment of occupancy price.

The Bombay Inferior Village Wutans Abolition Act, 1958

In pursuance of the Government agrarian policy, this Act abolished all the inferior village *wutans* with their incidents. The Act is made applicable to 47 villages of the district covering an area of 850 Acres and 32 Gunthas. The total land revenue derived from these areas was Rs. 2,010.49, of which Rs. 1,396.40 were to be accounted as *Nuksan* and Rs. 614.09 were to be treated as *Judi*. Consequent upon the implementation of Act, the land has been given to 196 occupants for an area admeasuring Acres 850 and 32 Gunthas. The total occupancy price obtained from these occupants amounted to Rs. 6,031.47.

The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960

The Gujarat Agricultural Lands Ceiling Act, 1960 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st September, 1961. It provides ceilings on existing holdings as well as future acquisitions. The ceiling is on a person which includes a joint family. No allowance is made for the size of a family. The ceiling area varies according to the class of land. In the case of a dry crop land, ceiling varies from 56 acres to 132 acres, in the case of rice land from 38 acres to 88 acres, in the case of seasonally irrigated land from 38 acres to 88 acres, and in the case of perennially irrigated land from 19 acres to 44 acres. Thus the ceiling varies from 19 acres to 132 acres according to local areas and classes of land. The level ceiling on future acquisitions is the same as that on existing holdings.

| Class of local area 1 | Ceiling area in acres | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Dry crop land 2 | Rice Land 3 | Seasonally irri- gated land 4 | Perennially irri- gated land 5 | |
| Class A 56 38 38 19 | | | | | |
| Class B 60 40 40 20 | | | | | |
| Class C 72 48 48 24 | | | | | |
| Class D 80 54 54 27 | | | | | |
| Class E 84 56 56 28 | | | | | |
| Class F 96 64 64 32 | | | | | |
| Class G 108 72 72 36 | | | | | |
| Class H 120 80 80 40 | | | | | |
| Class I 132 88 88 44 | | | | | |

About transfer, very stringent provisions have been made. No transfer or partition can be made by a person holding land in excess of the ceiling area after the commencement of the Act. Any transfer or partition made between 15th January, 1959 (the date of the Nagpur Resolution and 1st September, 1961) date of the Commencement of the law) shall be deemed to have been made with a view to defeating the object of the Act and shall be ignored in computing the surplus land held by the person. The surplus so determined shall be taken in the first instance from the transferer to the extent of land available with him and the balance, if any, shall be taken in the first instance from the transferred to whom transfer was made after 1st September, 1961 and thereafter from the transferee to whom the transfer was made after 15th January, 1959 and before 1st September, 1961. Under the law the land owners are enjoined to declare the surplus area within the time prescribed. Elaborate provisions are made for computing the surplus land.

Exemptions—The following categories of lands are, however, exempted from the ceiling limits:

- (i) Lands held in compact blocks of efficiently managed farms on which heavy investments or permanent structural improvements have been made and break-up of which will lead to a fall in production;
- (ii) Lands leased to or held by bodies or persons for growing fruit-trees and used for that purpose for not less than the last 3 years;
- (iii) Lands held or leased by approved Land Development Banks;
- (iv) Lands held or leased by approved co-operative societies for improvement of economic and social conditions of peasants or for ensuring the full and efficient use of land;
- (v) Lands leased or held by approved industrial undertakings which bona fide carries on any industrial operations;
- (vi) Lands being the property of a public trust for an educational purpose hospital, Panjrapole, Gaushala, or an institution for public religious worship the entire income from which is for the purpose of the trust.

The lands in the categories mentioned above will not be taken into account in computing the ceiling area of a person, but if the extent of land held under such categories exceeds the ceiling area, the persons will not be permitted to retain other lands.

The Gujarat Patel Watans Abolition Act, 1961

In order to remove Patel Watans, this Act was enacted. It came into force on 1st April, 1963. It abolished the Patel Watans with all their incidents including the right to hold office and *watan* property, and the right to levy customary fees or perquisites in money or in kind and liability to render services). All the *watan* lands were resumed and subjected to payment of land revenue under the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879. It declared that in future no office of a Patel shall be hereditary. This Act was applicable to 17 villages of the Gandhinagar district, admeasuring an area of 255 Acres and 23 Gunthas. The land has been granted to 57 occupants on payment of occupancy price. The total occupancy price recovered so far amounts to Rs. 4,138.50. On account of implementation of this Act the hereditary right of Police Patelship has been abolished and in its place at the interval of every 5 years a competent person from the village is appointed as Police Patel. The annual remuneration to them is decided on the basis of the population of the village.

The Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969

From the time immemorial, the rulers of Gujarat like rulers in other parts of India used to make grants of land, land revenue or cash allowances for maintenance of religious and charitable institutions. Such grants were called the Devasthan Inams. They consisted of entire villages or portions of villages, exemption from land revenue or assignment of land revenue of a village or a portion thereof and allowances in cash or in kind.

In order to abolish these *inams* held by religious or charitable institutions in the former Bombay area of the State of Gujarat, the Gujarat Devasthan Inams Abolition Act, 1969 was enacted and brought into force with effect from 15th November, 1969. The Act has a limited application. Firstly, it extends only to the former Bombay area of the State of Gujarat and excludes the Saurashtra districts and the Kachchh district from its purview. Secondly, it applies to the Devasthan Inams consisting of lands only and not to the cash allowances or allowances in kind.

It has abolished Devasthan Inams consisting of lands only together with all their incidents, which have been made liable to payment of land revenue. Occupancy rights are granted to (1) the *inamdar*, where such land was in his possession and had been cultivated on behalf of the *inamdar*, (2) authorised holder or inferior holder, where such land was in possession of an authorised holder or inferior holder and (3) the *inamdar*, where such land was in possession of a person other than the *inamdar*, authorised holder, unauthorised holder or inferior holder.

Where any Devasthan land is in possession of an unauthorised holder, it shall be resumed and an unauthorised holder shall be summarily evicted. If in the opinion of the State Government the eviction of such holder would entail hardship on him in view of the investment made by him in the development of the land or in the non-agricultural use, the State Government may direct the Collector to regrant the land to such holder on payment of such amount and subject to such terms and conditions as the State Government may determine. If such land is not so regranted, it shall be liable to be disposed of under the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879. The lands, which are not so regranted, shall be disposed of under the provisions of the Land Revenue Code.

For abolition of the *inam* rights in Devasthan lands, provision is made for payment of compensation to the Inamdar in the form of perpetual annuity.

The Act provides for abolition of (1) the exemption enjoyed by institutions for public religious worship under section 88(b) of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948, (2) the exemption which was available to the Devasthan Inams in regard to the provisions available to the landlords in regard to the termination of tenancy, and (3) the exemption which was provided for the Devasthan Inams land in the Ceiling Act.

The Act covers the entire village of Koteswar and scattered lands admeasuring Acres 1,697 and 39 Gunthas in this district. The Inamdar of Koteswar village have gone into appeal and as such the amount of the compensation has not been given yet. Moreover, the persons working as tenants on these lands are to be made occupants thereof on payment of occupancy price. Out of 339 cases, 132 cases have been decided, and the lands have been given to tenants after deciding the purchase price. In respect of 95 cases purchase price has been made inoperative. Moreover, in respect of 107 cases the persons tilling the land could not be proved as tenants. The work, therefore, was to be closed in such cases.

RURAL WAGES

The tracts comprising the areas of Gandhinagar district have in them prosperous farmers and poor agricultural labourers. These agricultural labourers are employed in the farms and are paid varying rates of wages. According to 1971 Census, there were 15,367 agricultural labourers in the district. The rates of wages are paid according to the different agricultural operations. They are different for men, women and children. But the women and children are paid at a slightly lower rate of wages. At the time of sowing or transplanting operation, the wages are higher while in slack season, the wages are low.

System of Employment

The farm labourers are employed in the district both for permanent and casual employment. The important systems of permanent labour prevalent in the district are Bhagia and Sathi. Under the Bhagia system of labour, a share in the farm produce is given to the permanent incumbent. The share varies according to the crops and conditions of the cultivators. Generally in respect of crops like Bajri, cotton etc., the quantum is one-fifth while in case of wheat the quantum is one-sixth.

The cultivators whose holdings are large enough to provide continuous labour, i.e., throughout the year engage annual agricultural labourers under the "Sathi" system. These farm labourers are known as "Sathi". A Sathi binds himself to do all types of farm operations. The contract is made generally for one year and is subsequently renewed year after year with the consent of the party.

Generally in crops like Bajri and Cotton, under Bhagia system a Bhagia gets $1/5$ of the farm produce and in that case he has to labour in the fields and watch while rest of the expenditure, viz, seed, manure, etc, is to be borne by the owner of the land. In certain patches Bhagia gets $1/6$ th share also. Even a system of Bhagia is there where he gets $\frac{1}{4}$ th share of produce but he has to bear all the expenses of labour, viz., sowing to harvesting and threshing while land owners bear the expenses of seed, fertilizer and pesticides, etc.

In case of wheat Bhagia gets $1/6$ th of the share and he has to bear the expenses of his own while rest of the expenditure is borne by owner. While in certain case Bhagia has to bear all the expenditure of labour charges and he gets $\frac{1}{4}$ th share and under this system the land owner bears the expenditure on land, seed, manure, irrigation, etc.

As regards employment of Sathi when he is appointed up to Divali he is paid Rs. 100 per month plus 3 times tea, 2 meals and *bidi* or tobacco. He is not provided with clothing but when he is appointed for whole of the year he is employed at Rs. 1,000 per annum plus two meals, 3 times tea, *bidi* or tobacco(one pair of clothes, one *Pachchedi* and a pair of shoes, etc.)

The casual employment is also prevalent in the district. Most of the land holders employ casual field labourers only when there is a rush of work on the farm and pay them on daily wages. Agricultural operations like ploughing which requires more strenuous labour commands a higher wage rate.

Casual labourers work on farm from morning to evening. The main source of labour is the village itself but sometimes according to the season and the extent of farm work, farm labour is recruited from surrounding villages.

As regards rates of wages to daily labourers for general work except land weeding Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per day are paid plus two meals, three times tea, *bidi* or tobacco, etc. If he is not be provided with other amenities, viz., meals, tea, *bidi*, etc. he is paid at Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 per day.

The current wage rates in the district vary according to the demand and supply of labour. The table given below indicates the rates of wages which prevailed during the years 1966-67 to 1973-74.

Wage Rates between 1966-67 to 1973-74

| Year I | Wages | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| | Male 2 | Female 3 | Child 4 |
| 1966-67 | | 2.66 | 2.50 |
| 1967-68 | | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| 1968-69 | | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| 1969-70 | | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| 1970-71 | | 3.00 | 2.50 |
| 1971-72 | | 3.00 | 2.50 |
| 1972-73 | | 3.00 | 2.75 |
| 1973-74 | | 3.00 | 3.00 |

Source :
District Agriculture Officer, Gandhinagar.

From the table it would be observed that over a period, the wages have not increased substantially. During this period some fluctuations have occurred in respect of wages of women and children.

Registration of Documents

Registration of certain documents is made compulsory under section 17 of Registration Act (XVI of 1908) and optional in case of certain others under section 18. As a rule fees are levied for the registration of all documents, but State Government has exempted co-operative societies

registered under the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961, from payment of such fees. Certain types of societies and nationalised banks enjoy restricted exemption in respect of certain documents involving consideration upto a prescribed limit, and fees are charged for the registration of documents for consideration in excess of limit.

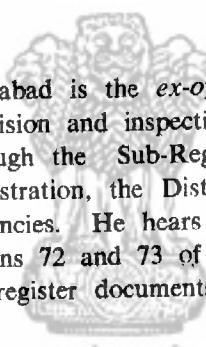
Marriages under the Special Marriage Act, the Indian Christian Marriages Act, the Parsee Marriage Act and Bombay Registration of Marriages Act, 1953 are also registered.

Registry Offices

There is only one taluka in the district. Therefore there is only one Sub-Registration office in the district at Gandhinagar. The Sub-Registrar does not pay visit to any out station.

District Registrar

The Collector, Ahmadabad is the *ex-officio* District Registrar who exercises powers of supervision and inspection over the entire registration staff in the district. Though the Sub-Registrars are appointed by the Inspector General of Registration, the District Registrar has powers to fill in the temporary vacancies. He hears appeals and applications preferred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Registration Act (XVI of 1908) against refusals to register documents by the Sub-Registrars under him.



Under sections 25 and 34 of the same Act, he is empowered to condone delays in presentation of documents and appearance of executants provided the delay does not exceed four months, and directs such documents to be registered on payment of a fine not exceeding ten times the proper registration fees. He is also competent to order refund in case of surcharges and to grant full or partial remission of safe custody fees in suitable cases. Under section 42 of the Act, a will or codicil may be deposited in a sealed cover and it may be got registered at the cost of the party desiring it after the depositor's death. He is also authorised to record and register births and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Act, (VI of 1886).

The Sub-Registrar

The main functions of the Sub-Registrar are to register documents, keep a record of all documents registered and to send to officers concerned extracts from documents affecting immovable property in respect of which a record of rights is maintained. Every Sub-Registrar is an *ex-officio*

Sub-Registrar for registration of births and deaths. He is also an *ex-officio* Registrar under the Parsee Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936. The Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar also registers marriages under the Bombay Registration of Marriages Act 1953. He is also authorised to record and register births and deaths under the Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Act (VI of 1886).

The Sub-Registrar working as Head-quarters Sub-Registrar at Gandhinagar is vested with the powers of solemnising and registering marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

The Head-quarters Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar assists the Collector in adjudication of documents impounded under section 33 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958 (IX of 1958) and also in adjudication of cases under the section 31 of the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958. He also assists the Collector in disposing of cases under sections 40 and 68 of the said Act.

The annual income of the Registration Department in Gandhinagar district was Rs. 53,351 and the annual expenditure was Rs. 15,435 for the year 1974. The office of Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar is under hand copying system. In all 1010 documents were registered in the district. 999 documents falling under compulsory registration were of the aggregate value of Rs. 82,85,697. 7 documents related to movable property and 4 were wills. Thus total number of documents registered in the district was 1010.

सन्यामेव जयते

STAMPS

The Superintendent of Stamps, Ahmadabad is the authority controlling the supply and sale of non-postal stamps. So far as Gandhinagar district is concerned the Collector of Ahmadabad as the administrative head of the district is in-charge of the entire work relating to the stamps. He regulates the sale of stamps and ensures collection of stamp duties. The Sub-Treasury Officer does the work of sale of stamps to the vendors and to the public. He is in-charge of the local depot at Gandhinagar and is responsible for the maintenance of the stock of stamps and their sale. The powers of refund of the value of unused, spoiled and obsolete stamps are exercised by the Collector and the Assistant Deputy Collectors.

As per Government Notification No. GHM/M/87/STP/1068/54035-H, dated 13th January, 1969, all the Sub-Treasury Officers have been appointed as "Proper Officers" for the purpose of the Act and under the

Rule 9 of the Bombay Stamp Rules, 1939, they are empowered to affix the special adhesive stamps on the unexecuted documents presented for stamping by the public.

For the convenience of the public, stamps are sold not only at the depot but also at various other centres by licensed stamp vendors, who are appointed by the Deputy Collector. There are two stamp vendors in the district. The non-judicial stamps in case of instruments requiring stamp duty of the value of above Rs. 500 and the court fee stamps exceeding Rs. 100/- are sold directly by the Sub-Treasury to the public. Stamps below these denominations are sold by authorised vendors. The Sub Treasury Officer acts as *ex-officio* stamp vendor by virtue of his post.

The total income realised from the sale of stamps in the district in the year 1973-74 (April 1973 to March, 1974) was Rs. 64,675 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 450/- for judicial stamps. The vendors were allowed a small discount which in the year 1973-74 amounted to Rs. 1811 for non-judicial stamps and Rs. 3.15 P. for judicial stamps.

OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

In order to meet the growing expenditure on developmental activities, the State and Central Governments have to augment their financial resources by tapping additional sources of revenue. The sources of the revenue are Sales Tax, Taxes on Motor Vehicles, State Excise, Central Excise, Income-Tax, etc. These are briefly examined below.

SALES TAX

सन्यामेव जयते

As a source of the revenue, Sales Tax occupies a distinct position in the tax structure of the economy. It is not only productive from the point of revenue but has additional merit of flexibility. By changing the coverage and the rates of tax the yield can be adjusted to revenue needs of the State.

Gandhinagar district created in 1964 out of Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts consists at present of 75 villages and one township of Gandhinagar which belonged to either former Baroda State or former pre-reorganised Bombay State. Therefore, prior to merger, the Baroda Sales Tax Act, 1946 was in force in the villages which belonged to former Baroda State. Similarly, the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1946 was in force from 1st October, 1946 in villages which belonged to the pre-reorganised Bombay State. After the merger of Baroda State with Bombay State as on 1st May, 1949, the Bombay Government introduced a multi-point Sales Tax Act from 1st November, 1952 and the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1952 became operative in the entire State. This Act was further amended and was known as the Bombay Sales Tax Act

(Amendment), 1953. It is also known as two-point Sales Tax and came into force with effect from 1st April, 1953. The two point system continued till December, 1959.

Since different systems of sales tax operated in the constituent units of the former composite State of Bombay, the Bombay Government appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Babubhai J. Patel to evolve a uniform system of sales tax for the entire State. On the basis of its recommendations, the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1959 was enacted and enforced with effect from 1st January, 1960. After bifurcation of the Bombay State, this Act of 1959 was adopted by the Gujarat State.

In order to rationalise the tax-structure and streamline the administrative procedure, the Government of Gujarat constituted in 1967 the Sales Tax Enquiry Committee with Shri M. M. Odedara as Chairman. On 28th June, 1968 this Committee submitted its report to Government. Its main recommendations related to the provision of a single point tax either at first stage or at last stage alongwith two point tax on certain commodities. On the basis of these recommendations a Sales Tax Bill was introduced and passed in the Assembly in 1969. The law was called the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 and was made applicable to the entire State with effect from 6th May, 1970. The salient features of the law are (i) that a single-point levy is combined with a double point levy, (ii) that a levy of retail sales tax is abolished and (iii) that exemption from the tax is granted to small manufacturers and traders of special category with an annual turnover of Rs. 30,000. It is felt that these provisions have been greatly beneficial to the traders.

In the Gujarat Assembly, the Gujarat Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1975, was introduced in July, 1975. The Bill after hereby been submitted to the Select Committee was passed and became operative in the entire State including the district with effect from 1st August, 1975. As a result of this, the tax on all commodities, which were subject to a three per cent tax, barring kerosene and safety matches, have been raised to four per cent.

The Government has exempted ready-made garments costing up to Rs. 20 per piece. The hybrid and improved seeds of cereals and pulses and cotton sold in sealed containers were subjected to eight per cent tax. They have been exempted now totally.

The concessional rate of three per cent Central Sales Tax granted in respect of certain commodities like *jari* thread and embroidery materials of gold, braids, borders, laces and trimming, *Jira*, *methi* and *ajma*, weights, and scales, elastic tapes, ready-made garments, when they are sold without declaration in form 'C' to the dealers of other States will go up by one per cent.

Similarly, the rate of tax on certain goods like aromatic chemicals, blue tacks and wire nails, screen printing blocks has been raised to four per cent.

The Gandhinagar district is under the jurisdiction of the office of the Sales Tax Officer, Ahmadabad District, Division-II Ahmadabad with Assistant Commisioner of Sales Tax (Adm.-cum-Appeals) Range-III, Ahmadabad as the range head and the Deputy Commissioner of Sales Tax, Ahmadabad, Division-II Ahmadabad as the Divisional head.

In 1974 the collection under the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 was Rs. 2,50,988 and Rs. 15,262 under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1936. The number of registered dealers was 262 under the Gujarat Sales Tax Act, 1969 and 79 under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 and 8 under the Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1958. The dealers holding documents were 45 Licence holders, 3 Recognised holders and one Permit holder.

As there is no significant commercial or industrial activity in this district there are a few registered dealers and document holders.

TAXES ON MOTOR VEHICLES

The taxes on motor vehicles constitute one of the important source of State revenue. The receipts from taxes under Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts, constitute about 13 per cent of the total tax receipts of the State. The Motor Vehicles Department is responsible for proper administration of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and rules made thereunder. It also collects taxes on motor vehicles which carry passengers and goods by road under:

- (i) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958.
- (ii) The Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958 and
- (iii) The Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962.

It also carries out in general the duties and responsibilities fixed under the provisions of the said Acts and Rules made thereunder.

ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP

The head of the Motor Vehicles Department is the Director of Transport, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad. As per reorganisation of the Department the State is divided in to four regions each one being headed by a

Regional Transport Officer. Thus there are four Regional Transport Offices in the State at Ahmadabad, Vadodara, Rajkot and Surat. In addition to these offices, there are seven sub-regional offices one each at Mahesana, Nadiad, Valsad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Jamnagar and Junagadh. The Gandhinagar district is under the Ahmadabad Region. In Ahmadabad Region, there is one sub-regional office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer. The Ahmadabad Region comprises the revenue districts of Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Mahesana, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha.

The collection of revenue realised for the Ahmadabad office for the districts of Ahmadabad, Sabarkantha and Gandhinagar for the years 1969-70, to 1972-73 is shown in the table given below:

| Name of the Act 1 | Amount collected during the year | | | | (Rs. IN LAKHS) |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 1969-70 2 | 1970-71 3 | 1971-72 4 | 1972-73 5 | |
| | | | | | |
| 1. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 .. | 11.43 | 12.71 | 13.17 | 14.16 | |
| 2. The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958 | 99.81 | 132.56 | 133.99 | 140.23 | |
| 3. The Bombay Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers) Act, 1958. .. | 0.97 | 1.03 | 0.75 | 0.63 | |
| 4. The Gujarat Carriage of Goods Taxation Act, 1962. .. | 20.40 | 23.10 | 26.04 | 27.15 | |
| Total .. | .. | 132.61 | 169.40 | 173.75 | 182.47 |

Source :

The Director of Transport, Ahmadabad.

STATE EXCISE

Excise or *abkari* revenue is one of the sources of State income, though not an important one in view of the policy of total prohibition adopted by the Government of Gujarat. The Prohibition and Excise Department in the district is responsible for the administration of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. The Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 and the Spirituous Preparations (Inter State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955. The Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, Ahmadabad who is in-charge of this work in the Gandhinagar district, works under the supervision and control of the Collector. He has under him Prohibition and Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors.

The State Government levies excise duty on the following commodity under section 105 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

- (a) any alcoholic preparation for human consumption.
- (b) any intoxicating drug and hemp.
- (c) opium, and
- (d) any other excisable article as defined in clause (13) of section 2 of the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

The present Gandhinagar district has been formed out of some of the villages of Daskroi and Dahegam talukas of Ahmadabad district and some of the villages of Kalol taluka of the Mahesana district. The villages of Dahegam taluka were under the Agency and some were under the former Baroda State. The villages of Kalol taluka were under the former Baroda State. In the ex-Baroda State villages, following Acts relating to State Excise were in force :

- (1) The Abkari Act, Samvat 1971.
- (2) The Rules relating to Abkari Act.
- (3) The Opium Act, Samvat 1968 (Act VII).
- (4) The Rules for the Opium Act in Baroda State, Samvat 1975.
- (5) The Poisons' Act.

In the remaining villages *i.e.* except those which were under the Agency and those which formed a part of the ex-Baroda State prior to 1947, the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878 was in force. The Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 has been brought into force with effect from 16th June, 1949 in the whole of the district.

There is no independent officer for Gandhinagar district, but one Sub-Inspector of Prohibition and Excise for Rural areas of Ahmadabad is in-charge of Gandhinagar district, and the Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, Ahmadabad supervises his work. There is one Samskar Kendra which is being run at Dabhoda village.

Excise duty on various alcoholic preparations yielded a total revenue of Rs. 61-00 in 1973-74 and Rs. 56-00 in 1974-75.

CENTRAL EXCISE

In the Gandhinagar district the work of the Central Excise Department is divided into two ranges, viz., the Kalol Range and the Randheja Range.

THE KALOL RANGE

The Kalol Range is under the Superintendent, Central Excise, Kalol and its jurisdiction extends over 25 villages of the Gandhinagar district. These 25 villages are being looked after in the following manner. For 23 villages, there is one Inspector of Central Excise posted at Adalaj. The remaining two villages are being looked after by the other Inspector of Central Excise posted at Kalol. Both these Inspectors work under one Range Superintendent at Kalol which is a part of the Viramgam Central Excise Division. The main excisable commodity is tobacco in this part of the district.

The figures of the annual revenue are as under:

| Item | 1972-73 | | 1973-74 | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| | Rs. | | Rs. | |
| (i) Tobacco | | 5,34,810 | | 4,85,723 |
| (ii) Asbestos cement products | | 2,673 | | 3,795 |
| Total | | 5,37,483 | | 4,89,458 |

The Randheja Range

The Randheja Range is placed under the Class II Superintendent of Central Excise, headquartered at Randheja. There are 43 villages of Gandhinagar district under this Range and the work is divided between 4 Inspectors of Central Excise.

The Department of Central Excise deals with the excise duties mainly levied on Tobacco, Cotton Fabrics (Powerlooms), Paints and Varnishes and Mosaic Tiles. Such duties yielded a total annual revenue of Rs. 12,56,815 and Rs. 13,94,869 in the years 1970-71 and 1972-73 respectively.

INCOME-TAX

This tax has acquired importance in the district of late. The importance of the tax has increased with the onset of developmental activities in the

This is one of the most important direct taxes levied by the Central Government. Assessment and collection of income-tax in the district are made by the Income-tax Officer, Circle VI-G, Ahmadabad, under the administrative control of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax, Range-VI, and Commissioner of Income-tax, Gujarat-III, Ahmadabad. The major collections of Income-tax are done by deduction at source from salaries of State Government employees stationed at Gandhinagar. Apart from this, substantial contributions to income-tax revenue have also been made by the merchants dealing in grains, groceries, timber, jaggery, etc. Farmers and cultivators growing tobacco, potatoes and cotton and the owners of oil mills and ginning and pressing factories have also been contributing substantially towards the revenues by paying income-tax.

Taxable Limit—Income-tax is payable at the rates specified in the Annual Finance Acts on taxable income, other than agricultural income, above the following limits:

| <i>Assessment Years</i> | <i>Individuals</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1972-73 | Rs. 5,000 |
| 1973-74 | Rs. 5,000 |
| 1974-75 | Rs. 5,000 |
| 1975-76 | Rs. 6,000 |



In the case of Hindu Undivided Families the limit varies according to the composition of the Hindu Undivided Families, the lowest taxable limits being the same as for individuals. The tax in each financial year is assessed on the income earned during previous year. From 1974-75, agricultural income is included in the total income for purpose of calculating the rate of tax, if income other than agricultural income exceeds the limits specified above. As the district is included in the jurisdiction of Ahmadabad district, the separate statistics have not been maintained.

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

INCIDENCE OF CRIMES

As there is no District Court at Gandhinagar, the data about Incidence of Crimes are not available.

Functions of Police

The primary functions of the police are the prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of law and order, apprehension of offenders, escorting and guarding of prisoners, protecting Government treasuries, and private or public property and prosecution of criminals. They have, however, certain other duties to perform such as inspection of shops selling explosives and poisonous drugs, giving aid to the displaced persons and pilgrims, verifications of character, passport, etc.

There are, however, other functions devolving on the police under the Bombay Police Act, 1951, as adapted and applied to Gujarat State. These are: (a) prompt service of summons and execution of warrants, (b) obtaining information concerning the commission of cognizable offences, (c) prevention of commission of public nuisances, (d) apprehension of culprits, etc.,

POLICE : EARLY HISTORY

The present Gandhinagar district came into existence from 1964 only. Information about the organisation of the police in the district in the past is, therefore, not available. However, some idea could be had from the former *Mahi Kantha Agency Directory* and the *Baroda State Gazetteer*, so far as it concerns Dabhoda, Bavisi and Pethapur which were small principalities and enjoyed certain powers conferred by the British.

Police control in the Mahi Kantha surrounded by the territories of princely States, and with its north and east wild and hilly, was very imperfect except in Bhil and Koli villages, which had only the headman, who was responsible for reporting offences in his area. The system of village watch was in existence in the territory. The Koli *chaukidars* traced the footsteps of thieves so successfully that stolen property was sometimes found after the tracks had been followed through several jurisdictions. Even if

the stolen property was not found, the village into whose limits the foot-steps were traced was held responsible and forced to compensate the loss. When the tracks could not be satisfactorily traced, endeavours were made to discover the offences by offering rewards secretly to anyone who gave information. The State Police was mostly undrilled and untrained. The details of State Police Stationed at Pethapur and Ranasan are given below:

Pethapur—15 foot police only.

Ranasan—1 mounted police and 8 foot police.

Under an Agreement of 1881, the Gaekwars' contingent serving the Mahi Kantha territory was replaced by a body of mounted police entirely under the control of the British Government. The Bombay District Police Act, (Act VII of 1867) was introduced from 1885.

The military detachment of Sadra was reinforced by addition of 13 Head Constables and 55 Constables to the then existing strength of the Agency Police in 1900. The Agency Police also maintained law and order in the areas of talukadars which had limited resources for maintaining separate police force. The Assistant Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, functioned also as the ex-officio Superintendent of Police from 1887. The details of Agency Police stationed at Dabhoda, Rupal and Sadra (including the camp) are given below: (i) Dabhoda—19 foot police and 2 mounted police, (ii) Rupal-out-post-4 foot police and 1 mounted police, (iii) Sadra headquarters—153 foot police and 34 mounted police, and (iv) Sadra Bazar (Residency Camp)—9 foot police.¹

Besides the Agency Police, the States/Estates of Pethapur, Ranasan, Rupal and Dabhoda also maintained their own police force as shown below:

Pethapur—The police strength consisted of one Foujdar, one Naik and 6 constables. Four police *chaukiyats* were also maintained.²

Ranasan—The police force comprised 1 mounted police and 7 foot Sowars.³

Rupal—Rupal was the headquarters of the taluka and had a Police Thana of the Rehvar Zillah. The agency Police maintained law and order.⁴

1. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, (1922), pp. 62-72.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 173.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 175.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 191.

Dabhoda—Dabhoda was the headquarters of the Thana where the Thandar held his Court. The Police Thana was also kept there.¹

Adraj, Unao and Bhoyan had police *thanas* and Santej and Sertha had police *chowkis*. The taluka police consisted of 1 *fozdar*, 4 *naeb fozdars*, 2 *jamadars*, 10 *havaldars*, 55 constables, 2 mounted police.²

POLICE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT SET-UP

For the purpose of administration, Gujarat State is divided into three Police Ranges, *viz.*, Vadodara, Gandhinagar and Rajkot, each under a Deputy Inspector General of Police. The Ahmadabad (Rural) and the Gandhinagar districts are under the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Gandhinagar Range. The District Magistrate of Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar districts exercises control over the whole police organisation of the district. He decides questions of policy and matters relating to the administration of law within the district, but does not interfere with such matters as recruitment, internal economy, and organisation of the police force. The District Superintendent of Police is the immediate executive head of the police force in the district and is stationed at Gandhinagar. His primary duties are to keep the force under his control properly trained, efficient and contented and to ensure by constant supervision and checking that the prevention, detection and investigation of crimes in the district are properly and efficiently carried out by the police force.

The District Superintendent of Police is responsible for maintenance of law and order in the district. He carries out detailed inspection of police stations and out-posts in his charge at regular intervals. As the Gandhinagar district is limited in area, there is no Circle Police Inspector.

The Home Inspector works as the personal assistant to the District Superintendent of Police and assists him in the execution of administrative duties at the headquarters. He supervises the work of the office at the headquarters during the former's absence. In this district, there is an officer of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police for the Local Crime Branch, and a Sub-Inspector of police for the Local Intelligence Branch. There is a Sub-Inspector of Task Force (Special Prohibition Squad), who carries out prohibition raids in the district.

There are 4 police stations, *viz.*, Gandhinagar, Pethapur, Adalaj and Dabhoda and four out-posts at Adraj, Unava, Chhala and Valad, in the

1. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, (1922), p. 214.

2. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, Administration, (1923), p. 665.

district. The Police Sub-Inspectors are in charge of police stations and outposts. The Gandhinagar Police Station, however, is in the charge of a Police Inspector as the capital of the State is located there. Each police station is provided with a sufficient number of Head Constables and Constables. The Head Constables are empowered to register and investigate the crimes registered at the police station. Thus they work as Police Station Officers. Each police station has one writer Head Constable and one writer Constable to do the office work.

The sanctioned strength of the police officers and men for this district was 229 in the year 1975. As the Gandhinagar district is combined with Ahmadabad (Rural) district for police purposes, The District Superintendent of Police, Gandhinagar is the head of police organisation for both these districts. He is assisted by Police Inspector-1, Police-Sub-Inspector-5, Armed Head Constables-9, Armed Police Constables-44, Unarmed Head Constables-37, and Unarmed Police Constables-11. The Wireless Staff comprises Police Inspector-1, Police Sub-Inspector-2, Radio Mechanics-2, Electricians-2, Workshop Hand-2, Writer Head Constable-1 and Police Constable orderly-1.

The expenditure on the police establishment in the district for the year 1973-74 amounted to Rs. 42,84,257. Among the officers and men shown above, the percentage of literate officers is 100. As regards the ratio of the police to the area and population, there was one policeman for an area of 297 sq. km. and population of 853 persons. The district has fleet of 24 police vehicles including one motor cycle, Wireless arrangement is provided at the district headquarters only.

Welfare of Police

Out of the total strength of policemen in the district, 166 policemen and six officers are provided Government quarters. Similarly 14 Police Sub-Inspectors are provided with Government quarters. A police mess is run at Sahijpur Bogha. The policemen are also given loans to purchase sewing machines from the Police Welfare Fund. There is also a sewing class at the police headquarters.

Home Guards

The Home Guards organisation was started in the year 1969 at Gandhinagar. The activities at present are extended to ten sub-units such as Gandhinagar, Moti-Adaraj, Titoda, Pethapur, Vavol, Randheja, Unava, Dabhoda, Unvarsad and Shertha. Its cadets are imparted training in squad

drill, lathi drill, arms drill, firing, use of bayonet and physical exercises. When called on duty, a cadet enjoys the same powers and protection as that of a member of the police force. The Home guard cadets guard public buildings, carry out patrolling, and prevent crimes and assist the police.

Besides, they are called on duty during the times of emergency as also for maintenance of law and order if the District Superintendent of Police so desires.

The number of Home guards cadets working in the district was 924 in the year 1974, and the expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 1 lakhs.

Kotwal Scheme

The Kotwal scheme has been adopted since May, 1962. A Kotwal is a Government servant appointed at the village by the Mamlatdar for performing duties prescribed from time to time by Government or by any officer authorised by Government in this behalf. The number of Kotwals to be appointed in each village is determined by the Collector in accordance with the scale and rules prescribed. After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj, they work under the Panchayat. The appointment of a Kotwal is renewed from year to year so long as the holder of the post continues to be fit to hold it. However, his service does not qualify him for leave, gratuity or pension. In February every year, the Talati-cum-Mantri of the village submits a report on the work of the Kotwal to the Mamlatdar in the form prescribed. He sends the original direct to the Mamlatdar and forwards the duplicate to him through the Sub-Inspector of Police. A Kotwal is required to give security of Rs. 100 and furnish two sureties in the prescribed form, as he has to handle Government money. The Revenue Patel, is primarily responsible for the general supervision and control over the work of the Kotwal of his village. However, no Kotwals have been reported to be working in the Gandhinagar district.

Village Police

Under the Bombay Village Police Act, 1867, the control over the village police is vested in the District Magistrate, who may delegate any of his powers to the District Superintendent of Police. Each village generally has a Police Patel, who is required to collect information regarding suspicious characters and send it to the police station. He keeps a strict watch over the movements of notorious characters under surveillance of the police and gives all the information he possesses about the village to the visiting patrolling police men. However, the exact strength of village police in the Gandhinagar district is not available.

Gram Rakshak Dal

Besides the village polices, another organisation established by the Government for the protection of the rural areas is the Gram Rakshak Dal. It is a body of men primarily organised for the defence of the village against dacoits and anti-social elements and for protection of person and property in the village. The Gram Rakshak Dal organisation for this district is placed under the District Superintendent of Police. During the time of emergency, the Dal functions as an adjunct to and works in close co-operation with the police in maintaining internal security. Every person between the age 20 and 50 years residing in a village possessing good health, character, good antecedents and civic sense, and educated upto third standard vernacular, is eligible for enrolment as a member. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority and the training is imparted by the Police Head Constables appointed specially for the purpose. Every member of the Dal enjoys the powers, privileges and immunities of a police officer when called for duty. The members are given training in elementary squad drill, *lathi* drill, physical exercise, use of rifle, arms drill, organising *naka bandis* in the village, combating of dacoits and robbers and giving first aid to the injured. In deserving cases, members are supplied with arms. They are also encouraged to do night patrolling in their respective villages, both on their own as well as with the police and are also mobilised when the village faces dangers like flood, fire, or other natural calamities or when its safety and security are threatened by dacoits, robbers, etc.

The Gram Rakshak Dal organisation in this district consists of one Honorary District Gram Rakshak Dal Officer and six taluka Honorary Gram Rakshak Dal Officers, one Police Sub-Inspector and seven Head Constables.

In this district, the Gram Rakshak Dal activity is spread over 58 villages and has 2,073 members (up to 4-12-1975). Members of the *dal*, who perform duties outside their villages, are paid Rs. 150 p.m., whereas the Honorary Taluka Gram Rakshak Dal Officers are paid Rs. 75 p.m. The services of the members are also utilised for road patrolling, whenever necessary.

Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal

A similar organisation for women was started in the wake of the Pakistani aggression in 1965. The main objective of organising a separate wing for women was to inculcate in them a spirit of defence and to induce them to take part in protecting life and property in the villages. During natural calamities such as flood, fire, earthquake, etc., they are required to give first aid to the injured and prepare food for the affected. Help in saving women from harassment by the anti-social elements is one of the main functions of the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal. Any woman between the age of 18 and 50 years, possessing good health, character and educated

upto fourth standards, is eligible for enrolment as a member. The District Superintendent of Police is the appointing authority. In this work, he is assisted by the honorary women organisers of the district. In this district, the Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal activity is spread over 58 villages and had 317 members (upto 4-12-1975). One post of Honorary Mahila Gram Rakshak Dal Officer has also been sanctioned by the Government.

Jails

ORGANISATION

All the prisons in the Gujarat State are established under the Prisons Act, 1894. The Inspector General of Prisons, Ahmadabad, is the head of the Jail Department. He exercises, subject to the orders of the State Government, general control and superintendence over all prisons, jails and the headquarter sub-jails in the State. The Jail Department functions under the administrative control of the Home Department.

There is no jail, sub-jail or judicial lock-up in the Gandhinagar district, but convicts and undertrials are kept in the headquarter sub-jail at Mahesana, sub-jail at Kalol and the Sabarmati jail at Ahmadabad for the respective villages of Mahesana and Ahmadabad districts transferred to the Gandhinagar district.

Prison Discipline—Prison life is well organised, and any breach of prison discipline is dealt with seriously. Those who are found guilty are awarded various types of punishments, viz., (i) cut in remission, (ii) separate confinement, (iii) stoppage of canteen facilities, etc.

After Independence, the jail administration has undergone considerable change. Previously, the stress was laid on breaking the personality of the prisoners by giving them inhuman task of grinding, inflicting such punishments as whipping, putting them in iron chains, and employing them on non-productive work. Such treatment broke the morale of even the able-bodied prisoners. After Independence, such inhuman treatment has been stopped and prisoners are now provided with productive work and trained in various crafts like textiles, carpentry, spinning on the *ambar charkha*, etc., mainly with a view to enabling them to earn their livelihood when released.

Welfare of Prisoners—Though jails are considered penal institutions, the policy of Government towards prisoners is not retribution or revenge but reformation and rehabilitation of those men and women who find themselves in jails for a variety of reasons. Whatever may be the cause of a

prisoner's entry into jails, the Jail Administration tries to equip him with such training as will enable him to settle down as honest, decent and useful citizen of the community after his release. With this end in view, several reforms have been introduced in jails, which mainly are: (i) remission of sentence for good behaviour, (ii) grant of furlough and parole, (iii) adult literacy classes, (iv) supply of newspapers, (v) training in various crafts, (vi) permission to prosecute studies, (vii) canteen facilities, and (viii) cultural activities in the form of *bhajans*, songs, sports, competitions, etc.

The Sadvichar Samiti, Ahmadabad, takes an active interest in prisoner's welfare. Every year the Samiti organises the "*Raksha Bandhan*" programme in the jails all over the State.

Juveniles and Beggars

To protect the society from the hazards of the anti-social elements, viz., the criminals, the juvenile delinquents, the adult offenders and the prostitutes, the State Government has undertaken a programme to prevent the commission of such crimes and cure such undesirable elements. This work is entrusted to the Directorate of Social Defence, with headquarters at Ahmadabad. This Department implements the following social legislations in the State. These are: (i) the Bombay Children Act, 1948, (ii) the Bombay Probation of offenders Act, 1938 and, (iii) the Bombay Women's and Children's Institutions Licensing Act, 1956.

Remand Home—In the Gandhinagar district there is no separate institution like the Remand Home or a Certified School. The destitute and delinquent children are however taken charge of under the Bombay Children Act, 1948, which is being implemented in this district. These children are kept in the Remand Home at Ahmadabad.

The provisions of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act are not applied to this district yet, but in Dabhoda village, a detention home for women beggars has been established. Those arrested from Ahmadabad district are also kept here.

The Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1939—The Bombay Probation of Offenders Act, 1938 was in force in the district upto September, 1973. Since then the Central Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, has been applied to the Gandhinagar district. The Chief Probation Officer of the Mahesana district conducts pre-sentence inquiries in respect of offenders of the Gandhinagar district and submits reports to the Court. This Officer also supervises the young offenders coming from the Gandhinagar district.

The Women's and Children's Institutions Licensing Act, 1956

There is no Reception Centre or a residential institution for women in the Gandhinagar district, but a sub-branch of the All India Moral and Social Hygiene Association was established at Gandhinagar in the year 1972. The Directorate of Social Defence Ahmadabad, renders financial assistance to the Gujarat State Branch of this Association for organising seminars, etc., with the aim of protecting the social and moral hygiene of rescued women.

JUDICIARY

Introduction—No information about the method of giving justice during the early period is available, but it appears from whatever stray instances available that the ruler's judgment on all types of disputes was final and no appeal could be made against it. Yet disputes of inheritance, serious offences like murder, theft, physical injury and other disputes were decided in consultation with the people of repute or religious leaders or other learned men. Such scholars were styled *Adhikarnik* during the Valabhi period. They administered justice only after satisfying themselves by verification of the documented evidences and witnesses, if any. In the absence of such evidences the accused was required to undergo such punishments as to walk through fire or keep the fire in hand, etc. *Pandits* of Nyaya Mandir gave the justice. In the villages, small disputes were generally settled by panchayats composed of the leading men. The Sarpanchas of these panchayats were sometimes nominated by the State.

During the Muslim period, the magisterial duties and criminal justice were entrusted to the town/city Kotwal, whereas civil disputes inclusive those of property, inheritance, etc., were settled by the Kazi, who was a leading figure under the Mahomedan rule. However, in other towns or villages having a majority of non-Muslim population, the Hindus were given justice according to the current practice among them and the Muslim were given justice under the Muslim usage and practice. The Revenue Officer was also invested with certain powers, who entertained civil disputes upto the limits prescribed.

During the anarchy that followed the disintegration of Muslim power, the administration of justice became debased and under the Marathas generally every crime was calculated in terms of money and decided accordingly. But after the British assumed administration, the judicial department began to be organised systematically.

The territory of the former Mahi Kantha Agency was interspersed with that of Gaikwad, the British and the princely States. The existence of large turbulent population and common frontier with Baroda and other States and British India were the source of constant trouble to the maintenance of law and order in the area. There were constant border disputes among the States in the Mahi Kantha Agency. Dacoities and murders, very often in broad day-light, were frequent. There was no rule of law, and administrative confusion prevailed in the territory. As the Gaikwad was collecting tribute from the Chiefs of Mahi Kantha, he maintained a police force designated the "Gaikwar Contingent", for maintaining law and order. But this force was of little help for preventing disorder. No other State in the territory had its own police force.

After the arrival of the British on the political scene, they put down anarchy with a firm hand. Slowly and gradually, British laws were adopted and the Chiefs were obliged to abide by the Treaty concluded by them with the Gaekwar and the British. The Mahi Kantha Agency under the charge of the Political Agent was created in 1820. The Agency Courts and the Courts in the States were organised and the powers of each Chief were defined. The Political Agent exercised general supervision over these Courts.

Col. Ballantyne, who was the first Political Agent of the Mahi Kantha Agency, tried to restore peace and bound the Chiefs to observe the following Articles : (i) to abstain from plundering and to surrender the plunderers, (ii) to abstain from private war and to refer all disputes to arbitration, and lastly (iii) to protect the passage of merchants. But, on account of financial burden, the Mahi Kantha, the Rajpipla and the Panchmahals Agencies were amalgamated in 1828 A.D. with the Baroda Residency. However, deterioration in law and order in this territory rendered it necessary to revive the Mahi Kantha Agency in 1836.

In 1839, a Court of Criminal Justice for the trial of all serious offences through the Agency of the Political Agent with three Chiefs as assessors was introduced in the Mahi Kantha. The establishment of this tribunal had a most wholesome effect on all classes and proved a powerful deterrent to commission of crime. Before the opening of this court, owing to the facility of evading justice, the indifference and in some cases, the want of power of the Chiefs, crime was committed with impunity. Government prohibited outlawry and proclamations were issued throughout the province making the offence penal, and subjecting the party offending to severe punishment. Besides the Political Agent, who was vested with the powers both of a Sessions Judge and District Magistrate, and two Assistant Political Agents, who were first class magistrates, one magistrate of the second class and forty of the third class were appointed.

In 1855, the administration of justice, except cases of murder and man slaughter, was in hands of the petty Chieftains. The civil disputes were usually put up before arbitration courts and panchayats, and compromise was generally the result. Robberies were generally settled by restoration of the stolen property and payment of a small fine. All civil and criminal cases, in which the parties concerned were the vassals of different Chiefs, were referred to the Political Agent for investigation, who, as far as practicable, applied the Regulations of the East India Company's Courts.

By 1879 the Chiefs, who enjoyed undefined judicial powers, were classified and graded into seven classes according to their status. The States/Estates included in the Gandhinagar district enjoyed judicial powers as defined by the British in the following manner.

No Court of a State could try a British subject, without permission of the Political Agent. The civil and criminal appellate powers over the Courts in the Agency States were vested in the Political Agent. The Thakors of Pethapur and Ranasan exercised civil powers to the extents of Rs. 2,500 and in criminal matters could award one year's imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 500. The Rupal and Vasna Thakors had civil powers to the extent of Rs. 1,000 and could award six months' imprisonment and fine up to Rs. 250 in criminal matters. Palaj was a seventh class State under the Mahi Kantha Agency and exercised powers of a Talukadar who could award one month's imprisonment and fine upto Rs. 50 in civil and upto Rs. 250 in criminal matters.

The Dabhoda Thandar exercised the powers of a Second Class Magistrate and in civil matters he heard suits upto Rs. 500.¹

Sadra, the headquarters of the Mahi Kantha Agency was a village in the Dolarana Vasna State. The Political Agent exercised direct jurisdiction within the station, but offences committed outside the limits were under the cognizance of the Dola Rana Vasna Thakor.²

An appeal lay to the Mahi Kantha Agency on the decisions of the Vasna Thakor (this practice was stopped during the tenureship of Thakor Bapusinhji).

Pethapur was a fourth class State under the Mahi Kantha Agency and exercised powers of a Talukdar of the fourth class. The State had a *munsiff*

1. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *Mahi Kantha Directory*, (1922), pp. 52-57; 60-62, and 315-327.

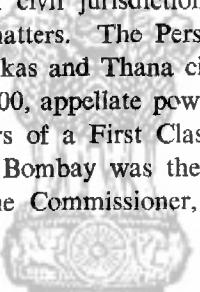
2. *Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Mahi Kantha*, pp. 439-40.

court which exercised civil and criminal jurisdictions. Appeals against the judgment of the State's Court were heard by the Political Agent at Rajkot.¹

Agency Courts

Besides the above courts, Agency Courts presided over by the Political Agent and his Assistants also existed at Sadra in the Mahi Kantha territory. The Court of the Political Agent was the Appellate Court of all the Agency Subordinate Criminal Courts. The Assistant Political Agent heard the civil appeals against the decisions of the respective Thandars in his charge.

The Political Agent enjoyed criminal powers of a District Magistrate and the Sessions Judge, and appellate powers as also civil powers enjoyed by a District Judge in the Mahi Kantha Agency. The Assistant Political Agent exercised, in the State under his charge, unlimited original and appellate powers in respect of civil jurisdiction and the powers of a First Class Magistrate in criminal matters. The Personal Assistants to the Political Agent exercised, in the talukas and Thana circles in their charge, original powers to the extent of Rs. 5,000, appellate powers to the extent of Rs. 1,000 in the civil matters and powers of a First Class Magistrate in the criminal matters. The Government of Bombay was the High Court in the cases of murder, and in other cases the Commissioner, Northern Division, was the High Court.



In 1878 besides a Judge and an Assistant Judge there were four subordinate Judges, in the Ahmadabad district. Of these the former had jurisdiction over Ahmadabad and Kheda districts. Of the four Sub-Judges, one stationed at Ahmadabad had jurisdiction over Daskroi and some villages of Sanand, Prantij and Modasa talukas.²

The Gazetteer of the Baroda State (1923) gives following details about the judicial administration in the Kalol and Dehgam talukas, which were under its jurisdiction.

Under the judicial reforms introduced by Raja Sir. T. Madhavrao, Dewan of the former Baroda State, independant civil (munsiff) courts were created for civil cases in each taluka. Criminal work upto Second Class was done by the Vahivatdar under the designation of *Mahal Fauzdari Nyayadhisth*, while the Divisional Naeb Subas were First Class Magistrates. In each district, a district court was opened for original work above the

1. DAMODARDAS REVADAS, *Jamin-Jagir-no-Bhomio*, 1837, pp. 708-709.

2. CAMPBELL J. M., *Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency*, Vol. IV, Ahmedabad, (1879), p. 192.

power of *munsiffs*, for hearing appeals from the *munsiffs* decisions and for trial of sessions cases and criminal appeals on the magistrate's orders. Below the district court, there were the courts of the taluka *munsiffs* and magistrates who had powers to hear suits upto Rs. 10,000. A *munsiff* was also a First Class Magistrate for the taluka. There were nine *munsiffs*' courts in the Kadi prant, of which the Dehgam *munsiff*'s court had jurisdiction over the Dehgam taluka and Attarsumba peta and the Kalol *munsiff*'s court has jurisdiction over the Kalol taluka. Specially empowered *munsiff* tried small cause suits upto Rs. 100 and upto Rs. 300, when forming a bench with another *munsiff*. In criminal matters he could pass sentence upto two years' imprisonment and award fine upto Rs. 1,000 in criminal matters. Below the taluka *munsiffs* came the village *munsiffs*' courts. These courts exercised jurisdiction over a village or a group of villages and were empowered to decide suits relating to money matters upto Rs. 30 and Rs. 100 when sitting in a bench with a *panch*¹.

Gandhinagar comprises one taluka district carved out from the villages of Kalol taluka of the Mahesana district and Dehgam and Daskroi talukas of the Ahmadabad district. There is no District and Sessions Court, or any other court subordinate to it at Gandhinagar. The Civil and Criminal work arising in the villages of this district is distributed among three courts located at Kalol, Ahmadabad (Rural) at Narol and Dehgam. A list of villages showing jurisdiction of each of these courts is appended to the Chapter.

At present, the Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class Kalol, exercises jurisdiction upto Rs. 10,000 in Civil cases as well as Criminal jurisdiction. Civil cases valued above Rs. 10,000 and suits against Government arising from the villages placed under his jurisdiction are tried by the Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, Mahesana. The District and Sessions Judge, Mahesana, exercises all the powers and general control over the Kalol Court and its establishment. The Additional Sessions Judge at Mahesana is empowered to try cases as a Special Judge under the Bombay Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. On account of pressure of work in the Kalol Court, two courts, viz., of the Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class and of the Joint Civil Judge, Junior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class, have been created at Kalol.

So far as the villages of the Dehgam and Daskroi talukas (now included in the Gandhinagar district) are concerned, the jurisdiction of the District and Session Court, Ahmadabad (Rural) District extends to the Civil Court of Narol and Civil Court, Dehgam. The District Judge exercises all the

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, (1923), p. 270.

powers and General Control over these Courts and their establishments. The Civil Judges of the respective courts are Judges of the Junior Division and Judicial Magistrates First Class and exercise the powers delegated to them. Further, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal of the Ahmadabad (Rural) District at Narol exercises exclusive jurisdiction in regard to such claims arising out of the Gandhinagar district.

STATEMENT XII.1

Jurisdiction of Civil Courts in Gandhinagar District

| Villages under Jurisdiction of Civil Court, Dohgam | Villages under Jurisdiction of Civil Court, Narol | Villages under Jurisdiction of Civil Court, Kalol |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Valad | 1. Unvarsad | 1. Adraj Moti |
| 2. Limbadia | 2. Pundarsan | 2. Sardhav |
| 3. Alampur | 3. Khoraj | 3. Jalund |
| 4. Lekawad | 4. Chiloda (Naroda) | 4. Rupal |
| 5. Bhundia | 5. Karai | 5. Randheja |
| 6. Mahudara | 6. Raipur | 6. Kolavada |
| 7. Dhanap | 7. Medra | 7. Piplaj |
| 8. Palaj | 8. Ranasan | 8. Kundasan |
| 9. Vasan | 9. Zundal | 9. Vavol |
| 10. Chhala | 10. Ambapur | 10. Vasna-Hadmatia |
| 11. Giyod | 11. Por | 11. Randesan |
| 12. Prantiya | 12. Unava | 12. Shertha |
| 13. Pirojpur | 13. Basan | 13. Titoda |
| 14. Vadodara | 14. Koba | 14. Bhoyan Rathod |
| 15. Vankarnerda | 15. Rayasan | 15. Jakhora |
| 16. Vira Talavadi | 16. Sugad | 16. Rajpur |
| 17. Lavarpur | 17. Amiyapur | 17. Chandkheda |
| 18. Shahpur | 18. Bhat | 18. Pindharda |
| 19. Ratanpur | 19. Nabhoi | 19. Sonipur |
| 20. Galudan | 20. Motera | 20. Sargasan |
| 21. Sonarda | 21. Pethapur | 21. Gandhinagar |
| 22. Dabhoda | 22. Adala | |
| 23. Chiloda | 23. Tarapur | |
| 24. Magodi | 24. Jamiyatpur | |
| 25. Dolarana Vasna | 25. Dantali | |
| 26. Isanpur Mota | 26. Koteshwar | |
| 27. Cheklarani | | |
| 28. Dashela | | |
| 29. Siholi Moti | | |

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The role of the State after Independence has been completely changed from what it was during the British rule. Accordingly administrative structure also has undergone radical change. It has grown enormously complex as a number of developmental activities and manifold responsibilities have been undertaken by the Government. The set-up and function of some of the developmental departments in this district are described as under:

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

The District Agricultural Officer (Class-II) at Gandhinagar is in charge of the agricultural activities of the district. He is technically responsible to the joint Director of Agriculture, Vadodara and administratively under District Development Officer, District Panchayat, Gandhinagar. He is assisted by one Assistant District Agricultural Officer and Agricultural Assistant for improved seeds. An Agricultural Inspector attached to the District Agricultural Officer looks after the work of Fertilizer Control Order of 1957 and Insecticide Act of 1968.

The District Agricultural Officer looks after implementation of development schemes under Five Year Plans, holding field demonstrations, organisation of crop protection services and dry farming methods, distribution of improved seeds, plant protection appliances, preparation of town and rural compost, technical guidance and co-operative farming societies.

Besides this, for other allied activities, there are other establishments of Agriculture Department which are directly under the control of the Superintending Agriculture Officer, Vadodara. They are:

1. The Cotton Superintendent, who looks after the cotton control activities.
2. Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer who looks after contour bunding, field channels, Kotar bunding and land levelling activities.

Gandhinagar district has only one taluka and as such the set-up of the department is different than that of other districts. There is one Extension Officer (Agriculture) who is assisted by Village Level workers. He is under

the administrative control of Taluka Development Officer who is under supervision and control of the Collector. His main work is to propagate improved agricultural practices by individual contacts, group meetings, demonstrations and crop competitions.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT

To look after the cattle wealth of the State, there is an office of the Director of Animal Husbandry, Gujarat State at Ahmadabad. He takes necessary measures for improving the breed, for providing necessary veterinary aid as also for checking the contagious and infectious disease.

At district level, there is District Animal Husbandry Officer who is technically responsible to the Regional Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Baroda Region, Ahmadabad and Administratively to the D. D. O. District Panchayat, Gandhinagar. He looks after the schemes relating to improvement of the breed of cattle and buffaloes, their protection against the contagious diseases, etc., in the Gandhinagar district. District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted in his work by two Veterinary Officers, one at Koba and another at Gandhinagar. The first aid veterinary centres are also located at Dabholia, Sardhav and Randheja which are under the charge of three Live Stock Inspectors.

THE FOREST DEPARTMENT



The Forest Department is headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, who is headquartered at Vadodara. He is assisted by four Conservators of Forests placed in-charge of each Forest Circle at Junagadh, Vadodara, Surat and Gandhinagar.

There are divisions and sub-divisions in the circles under the charge of Deputy Conservators of Forests and Assistant Conservator of Forests respectively. Gandhinagar Forest Division created in June, 1973 was down graded to the level of sub-division in November 1974, and was placed under the charge of Assistant Conservator of Forests. He is assisted by 3 Range Forest Officers, 12 Foresters and Guards, etc.

In Gandhinagar district, there is practically no forest. The department is engaged in carrying out soil and moisture conservation as well as afforestation works in the ravine lands on the banks of the river Sabarmati. In order to get better and more effective vegetable cover in the ravine land, more systematic tree planting using nursery raised potted seedlings, was launched since 1971. The Department is also entrusted with the duty of

extension forestry. Thus apart from the tackling of ravine lands, the department is also engaged in the work of raising the trees within the capital, on the outskirts of the capital as also on the roads leading to the capital. This is done with a view to give the aesthetic get up to the new capital. The department also collects the revenue from about 7,000 mango trees scattered throughout the capital.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This department deals with (1) Roads and Buildings (2) Irrigation, (3) Electricity and (4) Ports. The sphere of activities of each of these four branches is quite distinct from each other. The first two branches work under separate Superintending Engineers, while the work relating to electricity is placed under the charge of the Chief Engineer (Electrical). The Port Organisation is headed by the Director of Ports with headquarters at Ahmadabad, under the Administrative Control of the P.W.D.

Roads and Buildings

Activities in regard to roads and buildings cover construction, maintenance and repairs of roads, Government buildings and bridges.

In the district, Gandhinagar is a newly constructed township and the capital of Gujarat State. The Capital Project Circle office was opened in June, 1964 headed by a Superintending Engineer for construction of roads, bridges, staff-quarters, etc. Initially this Circle was opened with two Divisional and six Sub-Divisional offices. The work of the Capital Project consists of survey, preparation of the plans and estimates of residential, non-residential and public buildings, internal roads and district roads, water supply and drainage schemes, electrification, etc. Additional Divisional and Sub-Divisional Offices were subsequently opened when the construction work expanded. At present there are three Divisions with twelve Sub-Divisions and one Horticulture Sub-Division.

There is an organisation with Architectural and Town Planning wing headed by the Chief Town Planner and Architectural Adviser to Government for Gandhinagar Capital Project at Gandhinagar. There is no other subordinate office under this organisation in any part of the Gujarat State. This Organisation looks after the planning and layout of Capital township as well as designing of the buildings. There is a separate unit for Capital Project relating to the work of Town Planning and Architectural control over buildings constructed for the Capital of Gujarat. This office is directly

under the control of the Secretary, Public Works Department. There is no subordinate office under this Organisation.

Over and above the office of the Chief Town Planner, there is an office of the Architect to Government headquartered at Ahmadabad with jurisdiction over the entire State. The Architect looks after designing works costing over Rs. 2 lakhs of building and irrigation projects of the department and of the panchayats work in all over Gujarat except in big cities of the State.

The Road Project Circle under the Superintending Engineer, Gandhinagar carries out survey work of roads and bridge projects and prepares detailed plans and estimates of road works besides collecting the hydraulic survey data for bridge work in the entire State. The Superintending Engineer is assisted by a Deputy Engineer and three Junior Engineers. There are two units under the circle, viz., (1) Roads Project Unit, Gandhinagar headed by the Executive Engineer is in charge of Gandhinagar, Mahesana, Banaskantha, Surendranagar and Kutch districts, (2) National Highway Road Project Unit under the charge of Executive Engineer, headquartered at Gandhinagar, looks after the works relating to National Highways in the entire State. He is assisted by a Supervisor and two Junior Engineers.

The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineers belong to the cadre of Gujarat Services of Engineer, Class-I and the Deputy Engineers belong to G.S.E. Class-II. The Junior Engineers have the gazetted status while Supervisors and Overseers belong to Class-III cadre.

The Director of Parks and Garden is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Ahmadabad (R&B) Circle No. 1, Ahmadabad. The work at Gandhinagar proper is looked after by the Horticulture Sub-Division headed by the Horticulture officer with his headquarters at Gandhinagar. He looks after the layout and maintenance of all the gardens. The work in the district is looked after by the Technical Officer placed, at the headquarter of the office of the Director of Parks and Gardens at Ahmadabad. Both the above offices work under the control and the guidance of the Director, Parks and Gardens.

At Gandhinagar there is one staff training college for the employees of the Department. It imparts training in general subjects such as public administration, scientific management and organisation, establishment and their service conditions, account and financial matters, building, bridges and highways, irrigation, dams and reservoirs. The staff training college is headed by a Director who is a Class-I officer of the rank of Superintending Engineer. He is assisted by a Deputy Engineer (Class II) who is also working as Personal Assistant.

Irrigation

The Central Designs Organisation is headed by Superintending Engineer. It deals with the planning and designs of multipurpose, major and medium irrigation projects. Its jurisdiction is all over the State and its work is divided into several units. Each unit is in charge of an Executive Engineer assisted by 4 or 5 Deputy Engineers. The functions of this organisation are to study the hydrology for various river basins to prepare detailed designs and drawings of the earthen/masonry dams and canals. It scrutinises irrigation and power project reports. It prepares brochures containing standardised designs, drawings and specifications.

Besides these the Central Design Organisation also advises the intricate specific design problems of the medium and minor irrigation schemes when called upon. It also looks after administration routine. One post of Superintending Engineer (Geology) is also attached to this organisation. He has technical control, over the various divisions and units engaged in carrying out engineering geological works of projects under investigation, projects under construction, ground water investigation for planning of ground water development and recharge schemes, construction material surveys etc.

Water Resources Investigation Division, Ahmadabad with five sub-Divisional Officers looks after the investigations of major and medium schemes besides carrying out collection of hydrological data in Gujarat region. The jurisdiction of this Circle extends over the whole of the Gujarat State.

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The Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department is quite distinct from other branches. This branch undertakes the construction of Irrigation Project, Drilling Tubewells and Maintenance of the Irrigation schemes put to operation. Irrigation in Gandhinagar is only through Tubewells at present. The Director of Ground Water Investigation, Ahmadabad is in charge of Irrigation of Gandhinagar district. The management of the drilled Tubewells is under Superintending Engineer, Ahmadabad Irrigation Project Circle, Ahmadabad. One office of the Deputy Engineer, Tubewells Maintenance Sub-Division (Gandhinagar) with headquarters at Ahmadabad, was opened under the control of Executive Engineer, Ahmadabad Irrigation Division, Ahmadabad. It looks after the administration of tubewells of the district.

The Minor Irrigation Projects (CDO) headed by the Superintending Engineer is under the direct control of the Chief Engineer (I) & Joint Secretary to the Government of Gujarat, P.W.D., Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar. The function of this Organisation is to give direction to the Programme of Minor

Irrigation Schemes. The Superintending Engineer is assisted by two Executive Engineers, each in charge of a Unit. The Executive Engineer is assisted by three Deputy Engineers and six Junior Engineers.

This organisation looks after the design aspects, scrutiny and sanction of the various minor irrigation schemes of the entire Gujarat State. It also carries out investigation and preparation of plans and estimates of schemes costing more than Rs. 7/- lakhs, and upto Rs. 25/- lakhs (Rs. 30 lakhs for hilly region) through two minor irrigation project divisions, one at Ahmadabad for Gujarat region and the other with headquarter at Rajkot for Saurashtra and Kutch region. Both these units are headed by Executive Engineers. The Executive Engineers are assisted by four Deputy Engineers each in charge of sub-divisions. The work of survey, investigation and preparation of plans and estimates of minor irrigations schemes in Gandhinagar District, are looked after by this organisation irrespective of cost, while the maintenance and execution of such works are placed under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Ahmadabad Irrigation Project Circle.

In other districts the work of survey and investigation of M.T. Schemes costing less than Rs. 7 lakhs are being looked after by the respective district panchayat divisions.

The works of tubewells are being handled by the Gujarat Tubewells Division II, Ahmadabad, headed by an Executive Engineer, G.S.E. Class I Officer. After the tubewell is drilled, the same is handed over to Ahmadabad Irrigation Division for management.

The Gandhinagar panchayat circle, (State) Gandhinagar was established on 5-8-'72. It carries out the works and supervision over roads bridges, minor irrigations, scarcity works etc., under jurisdiction of the District Panchayats. The District Division with the Executive Engineers of this circle are under the administrative control of the District Development Officers of the District Panchayat. This circle has no divisional and sub-divisional offices in Gandhinagar district. It deals with the supervision and technical guidance over the panchayat works which was so far exercised by the Regional Superintending Engineer.

There is a Sub-Division of the P.W.D. to look after the work relating to common pool vehicles. The Division and Sub-Division are working under Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle with headquarter at Ahmadabad. The common pool vehicle Sub-Division, at Gandhinagar looks after mechanical works, repairs of P.W.D. Vehicles etc. It is under Deputy Engineer (Mechanical), GSE Class-II working under the Executive Engineer Inspection Unit, G S.E. Class-I at Ahmadabad.

Electrical Organisation

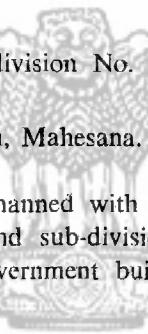
For carrying out advisory, administrative and executive functions regarding use of electricity in the State, there is an Electrical Wing in P.W.D. It is headed by the Chief Engineer (Elec.) with the headquarter at Gandhinagar. There are four electrical divisions, each under the charge of the Executive Engineer, with headquarters at Ahmadabad, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Gandhinagar respectively.

There are four sub-divisional offices under the control of Capital Project Electrical Division, Gandhinagar.

- (1) Capital project sub-division No. 21, Gandhinagar.
- (2) Capital project sub-division No. 22, Gandhinagar.
- (3) Capital project sub-division No. 23, Gandhinagar.
- (4) Electrical sub-division, Mahesana.

These sub-divisions are manned with Deputy Engineer (Elec.) in each Sub-Division. The Division and sub-divisions look after execution and installations works in the Government buildings in the district and also their maintenance and repairs.

Ports



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There is no port in this district.

THE CO-OFFRATION DEPARTMENT

The Co-operation Department is headed by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies with headquarters at Ahmadabad. This department works under the Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation Department at the State level. The Registrar also functions as the Registrar General of Money-Lenders and the Director of Agricultural Marketing. At the headquarters he is assisted by the Additional Registrar, the Joint Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, and the Assistant Registrars. At the Registrar General of Money-Lenders, he looks after the enforcement of Bombay Money-Lenders Act, 1946. In his capacity as the Director of Agricultural Marketing, he looks after the implementation of the Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1963, and performs the functions of organising and constituting the regulated markets.

Reorganisation of the Department

The Department was reorganised in 1968 for the sake of economy and efficiency. Under this scheme, the offices of the Divisional Deputy Registrars at Ahmadabad, Vadodara and Rajkot were abolished and the powers exercised and duties performed by them were adjusted among the offices of the Registrar at the State level and the District Registrars at the district level. Further the functions of the District Registrars were also decentralised. The activities of the Department were divided into four sections, such as (i) Co-operation and Marketing, (ii) Industrial Co-operatives (which is placed under a separate Directorate since March, 1973), (iii) Money-lending, and (iv) Audit. Separate District Registrars (except Audit) were appointed for each of these activities, who were placed in charge of one or more districts. The set-up of each wing in the Gandhinagar district is given below.

SET-UP AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

I. Co-operation and Marketing

The District Registrar, Class-I with headquarters at Ahmadabad (Rural) is in charge of this section and exercises jurisdiction over the district of Ahmadabad (Rural) Gandhinagar and Sabarkantha. He also functions as the Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance and entertains proposals for the establishment of regulated markets and the declaration of market yards as per the provisions of Gujarat Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961. At headquarter, the District Registrar is assisted by office superintendent, head clerk, Co-operative Officers, etc.

Co-operation Department's set-up in the Panchayat

After the introduction of the Panchayati Raj from April 1963, the following subjects are transferred to the Panchayat. (1) registration of societies, (2) maintenance of prescribed registers, (3) powers relating to the formation, registration or continuation of societies and their membership, (4) amendment of bye-laws, (5) change of name, (6) disposal of surplus assets of societies in the event of their closure, and (7) holding annual general and special meetings of societies. As there was no district panchayat in Gandhinagar, the above works were carried out by Taluka Development Officer with the help of Extension Officer Gandhinagar. As district Panchayat at Gandhinagar has come in existence with effect from 31st January, 1976. Above functions are now carried out by Assistant District Registrar, Co-operative Societies (Panchayat) Gandhinagar under Administrative Control of District Development Officer.

Money-Lending

The District Registrars (Money-Lending) are entrusted with the enforcement of the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, and are designated as the Registrars of Money-lenders (Class-I). One such Registrar with headquarters at Ahmadabad supervises the work relating to the money-lending legislation in the district of Kheda, Mahesana, Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and the Panchmahals. Assistant District Registrar (Money-Lending) at Ahmadabad helps him in this work.

The Registrar is empowered to grant or refuse licences to money-lenders on merits. In case of any breach, he is empowered to compound the offences under section 35(c) of the Act. He has to take final decisions in the cases of illicit money-lending detected by the subordinate officers working under him. The Assistant Registrar conducts inquiries of applications for licences and forwards them with his report to the Registrar who may either grant or refuse them on merits. The Co-operative Officers attached to him detect the cases of illicit money-lending, which the Assistant Registrar forwards to the Registrar for final disposal.

Audit

Section 84 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961, provides for the statutory audit of every society at least once in a year by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies or by any person authorised by him. The Special Auditor Co-operative Societies (Divisional) Ahmadabad, is looking after the audit work of Gandhinagar District with the assistance of Auditors and sub-Auditors for Ahmadabad District as well as Gandhinagar district.

Industrial Co-operatives and Cottage Industries

The District Registrar (Industries) Class-I with the headquarters at Ahmadabad looks after the administration and development of industrial Co-operative and Cottage Industries. He exercises jurisdiction over the Districts of Ahmadabad, Gandhinagar, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Mahesana.

He is assisted at the district headquarters by one marketing officer, one Senior Supervisor, two Senior Clerks, one Assistant Co-operative Officer (H.L.), one Investigator, one Junior Supervisor and other clerical staff. Now this section is under the administrative control of new Directorate of Cottage Industries and Industrial Co-operatives.

THE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

The main functions of the Department of Industries are to look after the large scale and medium scale industries, assistance to small scale and cottage industries, purchase of stores for Government departments, enforcement of Weights and Measures Act, control of raw materials for industries, issue of essentiality certificates, export promotion, etc. According to the established policy of Government, the department assists industrialists in securing land, water, raw materials, power and other requirements. It gives them technical advice and also furnishes information in respect of raw materials, processes of manufacture and industrial potentialities. It conducts research and investigation in technical problems relating to industries.

The Department of Industries is headed by the Commissioner of Industries. His headquarters is at Ahmadabad. He works in several capacities such as the Controller of Weights and Measures, Controller of Coal and Coke and Controller of Molasses. Besides, he is implementing the industrial policy of the State Government. Under him there is one Deputy Director of Industries (Metric) at Ahmadabad, who is in-charge of the Metric branch and is responsible for the enforcement of the Weights and Measures Act in the whole State. At the regional level, there are 5 more Deputy Directors of Industries, one each for Ahmadabad, Vadodara, Mahesana, Surat and Rajkot regions and they act as Deputy Controller of Weights and Measures respectively in their respective regions.

In the Gandhinagar district the industrial development is in a primary stage. So looking at the extent of work for the department in Gandhinagar, there is no separate set up, the work pertaining to Industries being dealt with by the Inspectors of Industry posted at Ahmadabad (Division 8.) under Industries Officer for Ahmadabad.

The Industries Officer is charged with a number of functions which are more or less analogous to those assigned to the Deputy Director at the regional level. The most important function assigned to the Industries Officer is to look after the promotional aspect of industrial development in the district. To this end, he has to render all possible help to the parties approaching him for advice regarding the industrial potentialities such as infrastructure facilities like water, power, land, communications, etc. He has to assist them in getting required raw materials, loans and machinery on hire-purchase basis, Registration of Small Scale Industries is done by him. Other functions besides these relate to the proper enforcement of the Bombay Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, and Rules made thereunder. In this work, he is assisted by the Industries Inspectors who are required to visit centres allotted to them. In addition to the work of weights and measures, these Inspectors assist the Industries Officer in

investigation of applications for the import of scarce and controlled raw materials, power subsidy, registration of small scale industries, telephone priority, electricity duty, collection of industrial statistics and information relating to industrial activities in the district. After investigation, the Inspectors submit their reports to the Industries Officer, who after ascertaining their genuineness, forwards them to the concerned Deputy Director of Industries, with his recommendations. The Deputy Director issues necessary permits or essentiality certificates on merit. Similar procedure is followed in respect of applications for loans under the State Aid to Small Scale and Cottage Industries Rules, 1935 or under the schemes operated by the State Bank of India or the Gujarat State Financial Corporation or for the hire-purchase of machinery.

For the Development of Industries in Gandhinagar District, it is proposed to establish an Industrial Estate in an area of 20,000/- sq. meters, at Gandhinagar. The proposal is sanctioned by State Government.

Power Subsidy to Small Scale Industries

With a view to encouraging cottage and small scale industries and to increasing their production through the use of electric powers, a subsidy scheme for electricity consumed by cottage and small scale industries is implemented by the Commissioner of Industries.

Since October 1967, the District Collector is appointed as a *ex-officio* Deputy Commissioner of Industries for his district. The functions and powers assigned to him include: allotment of factory sheds and plots in the Government industrial estates, holding of seminars connected with industries, formulation of District Master Plans and correspondence with all authorities in or outside the State directly with regard to the difficulties of industries in the district. The District Advisory Committee is constituted under the chairmanship of the District Collector to solve the general problems with regard to infra-structure facilities such as land, water and power. Industries Officer is member secretary to this Committee.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER

The success of democracy depends on the awareness and consciousness of the people. On the other hand it is necessary that Government should be kept informed of the public opinion and the needs and grievances of the people. The District Information Officer of the Directorate of Information, Gujarat State, looks after all works pertaining to information, publicity, mass communication and public relations in the district. The District Information Officer (Rural) posted at Ahmadabad is in charge of Gandhinagar district in addition to the rural areas of Ahmadabad district. He issues to the press,

the news items which supply factual information on schemes and activities of the Government in the district and also corrects in consultation with the concerned department incorrect newspaper report. He also organises visits of pressmen to various development works in the district as and when considered necessary and organises press conferences to provide an opportunity to the press to get first-hand knowledge of the subject to be covered. He discharges two way functions of keeping the people informed of the work of the Government and of keeping the Government informed of the public opinion and needs and grievances of the people. Besides, he helps tourists and others visiting the district and provides them with necessary information.

As in every other districts of the State, a mobile publicity van is placed in charge of the District Information Officer, Ahmadabad (Rural) and Gandhinagar districts. With the help of it, film shows and talks which are both instructive and entertaining are arranged on various nation-building activities such as agriculture, cattle improvement, health, prohibition, untouchability, small savings, education, Five Year Plans, family planning, the concessions and facilities offered by the Government, etc.

One Information Centre exists at Gandhinagar where books, periodicals, etc., bearing on the Five Year Plans and its progress are displayed.

THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT STATISTICAL OFFICER

The Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gandhinagar is the apex office concerned with the collection and compilation of statistical data, so very essential for planning and development programmes of the State. It has an office in each district under a District Statistical Officer who is responsible for collection of and improvement in the quality of basic statistics. Some of the important activities carried out by the District Statistical Officer are: publication of District Statistical Abstract, collection of data pertaining to prices, progress of Community Development Programme and Five Year Plan, conduct of various socio-economic surveys, spot studies, evaluation of schemes, etc. So far as the statistics of the district are concerned, he acts as a link between Government and the Panchayats. The district Statistical Officer is assisted by the Statistical Assistants at the taluka level.

Gandhinagar district Panchayat came into existence from 31st January, 1976. With the formation of the district panchayat, a post of District Statistical Officer is also created in this Office. District Statistical Officer is working under the District Development Officer. He is assisted by one Statistical Assistant. One other post of Statistical Assistant is also sanctioned on the establishment of the Taluka Development Officer for the Block office. In this district there is no Taluka Panchayat and hence the S. A. sanctioned for the block office is supposed to work under the District

Statistical Officer. He is dealing with the Taluka level work viz., preparation of Block Quarterly Progress Report, Annual progress Report, Agriculture Statistics viz., preparation of season and crop Reports, Reports of Rationalised Supervision, Forecast Reports, Crop cutting Reports etc.

Statistical Assistant sanctioned for the District Statistical Office is dealing with the work of Plan Reports, District Statistical Abstract, Adhoc Surveys, Spot Studies, Collection of Basic data of the district, etc.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Director of Education is the head of Education Department and he is assisted by 2 Joint Directors and 2 Deputy Directors alongwith Inspector of Commercial Schools and Inspector of Drawing and Crafts and Curator of Libraries and other inspecting staff. The schools and colleges and research institutions are under the control of the Director. As an administrative head, he is responsible for carrying out the educational policy of the Government except in institutions imparting instructions in medicine, agriculture, industry, veterinary science and technical education. One joint Director is incharge of higher education while another is incharge of secondary education. As regards Deputy Directors, they are incharge of primary and teachers education respectively.

District Education Officer is the head of the district. He is responsible for supervision of primary education and social education. Secondary schools and primary Training Colleges are completely under his charge. Under him there are Education Inspectors and Assistant Education Inspectors who help him in inspection of secondary schools, training colleges and in conduction of various departmental examinations. The District Education Officer is a Class I officer while the Education Inspector and Assistant Education Inspector are Class II and Class III officers respectively. In this district the District Education Officer is also given responsibility of supervision and inspection of secondary schools and educational institutions of the Ahmedabad rural.

Primary education is under District Panchayat, Administrative Officer is the executive office under Education Committee of the District Panchayat. He is responsible for inspection and supervision of primary schools, social education classes, libraries and general administration of primary schools of the district. He is a Class II officer. In Gandhinagar district the district Panchayat came into existence on 31-1-76. The District Panchayat discharges its responsibility now through District Education Committee. Primary schools of Gandhinagar town is also under the Administrative Officer of the district Panchayat.



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PART VI—WELFARE DEPARTMENTS

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

HISTORY OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

An outstanding feature of the ancient Indian civilisation is the development of community life it exhibits. The community life found full expression in Local Self-Government institutions. The history of Local Self-Government therefore has a hoary past. The powers of the village councils in ancient days were probably more extensive. The villages themselves managed the simple affairs but the State being small, there was hardly any distinction between the Central and the Local Government. Some details of Local Self-Government institutions are available from Vedas and Kautilya's Arthashastra. The Government of the village was carried under the direct control, supervision and guidance of *gramani* (village Headman). The village council was permitted to spend a specified percentage of the revenues collected for financing its multifarious activities.

The institution of the village panchayat which existed during the subsequent periods of history of India, was not only an ancient institution but also one of paramount importance in culture and administration. Sir Charles Metcalfe paid glowing tributes to this village institution in the following words :

"The village communities are little republics having nearly everything they want within themselves and almost independent of foreign relations. They seem to last where nothing else last".

Sir George Birdwood has said, "India has undergone many political revolutions, but the village communities remain in full municipal vigour". However, this ancient institution became a thing of the past during the earlier part of the British regime. The Royal Commission on Decentralisation appointed in 1907 remarked in its report as under :—

"These villages formerly possessed a large degree of autonomy, but this autonomy has now disappeared owing to the establishment of Local Civil and Criminal Courts, the present Revenue and Police Organisations, the increase of communications, the growth of individualism and operation of the individual Ryotwari system."

After Independence in 1947 the Constituent Assembly inserted the following article as a Directive Principle of State Policy in our Constitution:

"Article 40—The State shall take steps to organise Village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self Government."

Subsequently, in 1958 the Balwantrai Mehta Committee came to the conclusion that—

"So long as we do not discover or create a representative and democratic institution which will supply the local interest, supervision and care necessary to ensure that expenditure of money upon local objects, conforms to the needs and wishes of the locality, invest it with adequate power and assign to it appropriate finances, we will never be able to evoke local interest and excite local initiative in the field of development."

The Statement XIV.I indicates number of local bodies from 1961-62 to 1970-71.



STATEMENT XIV.1

**Number of Local Bodies and Organs of Democratic Decentralisation,
1961-62 to 1970-71.**

| Year 1 | Number of District Panchayat 2 | Number of Panchika Panchayats 3 | Number of Gram Panchayats 4 | Number of Nagar Panchayats 5 | Number of Municipali- ties 6 | Number of Muni- cipal Corporations 7 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1961-62 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1962-63 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1963-64 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 1964-65 | .. | .. | .. | 74 | .. | .. |
| 1965-66 | .. | .. | .. | 74 | .. | .. |
| 1966-67 | .. | .. | .. | 74 | .. | .. |
| 1967-68 | .. | .. | .. | 74 | .. | .. |
| 1968-69 | .. | .. | .. | 74 | .. | .. |
| 1969-70 | .. | .. | .. | 74 | .. | .. |
| 1970-71 | .. | .. | .. | 70 | .. | .. |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Part X-C-1, Gandhinagar District, p. 27.

Local Boards

The villages of Kalol taluka which have been merged into Gandhinagar district previously formed part of the Baroda State. Accordingly the Taluka and District Local Boards, Prant Panchayat which were in existence in Mahesana prant looked after these villages.

In the Baroda State, the Taluka District Local Boards came into existence in 1904, under the Local Self-Government Act of 1904. Their roles are examined below.

Taluka Boards

By this Act, it was provided that all the villages in a taluka should be divided into a number of groups from each of which a member should be returned to the Taluka Board. The total number varied in different talukas according to area and population. Out of the total number of members, two-third of the members were to be elected and only one-third were to be nominated. Of the nominated member half were *ex-officio* members and the other half represented the interest of the minorities. An official element was included in the personnel of the Taluka Boards. Each municipality in the taluka had the privilege of choosing a member. The Naeb-Suba of the sub-division was the president and the vice-president was to be elected by the members from amongst the non-official members.

District Board

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The Act also made specific provisions for the election of members to the District Board. It was provided that each Taluka Board within the district shall elect one or more members to the District Board. Similarly each municipality with a population of over ten thousand, should also send a member. One member was to be elected by alienated villages. Together they constituted not less than one-half of the total number. The other half was to be nominated by Government and among nominated members, not more than one half were to be Government Servants. The District Officer was to be the Chairman of the Board.

Functions of Taluka and District Boards

The duties vested in Taluka Boards and District Boards were construction of roads, tanks, wells and water works, the management of *dharmashalas*, dispensaries and markets; the supervision of vaccination, sanitation, primary education and agriculture, the undertaking of relief measures on a small scale in times of famine, and other public duties which were

entrusted to them from time to time. The proceeds of the local cess and such other funds as may be assigned for the purpose from time to time by the Baroda State Government were to be devoted to the performance of these works. The Taluka Boards were subsequently dissolved but the District Local Board was continued.

Panchayats

If the attainment of political freedom has any meaning for the rural areas, it should provide them with the means and opportunities for economic and social betterment. To achieve these objectives, the people must have their own organisation for evolving and implementing rural development programme which cannot be better fulfilled than through the institutions of village panchayats. It is through village panchayats that village people can become efficient in seeing how village problems affect their lives and how they can be involved in appropriate group effort to solve village problems. The Planning Commission has rightly assigned a place of pride to the panchayats in the task of decentralising the local administration and in giving them the necessary scope for initiating planning and execution of schemes aiming at the welfare and development of the village economy. While operating through the peoples local organisations, the programme simultaneously strengthens the foundation of democracy on which our constitution stands by making the villager understand the significance of development. It makes him realise his position in this vast democracy. The establishment of village panchayats thus became indispensable for achieving alround economic development and growth of a democracy.

It was after Independence and particularly after the merger of States and Estates that panchayats began to be established and legislation prevailing in the Bombay State was made applicable to the district. Gandhinagar District Panchayat came into existence in 1974. It is felt that Panchayati Raj will now be implemented effectively in the district.

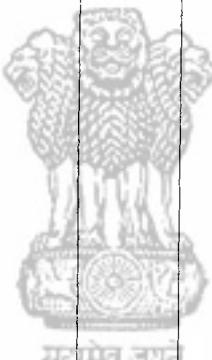
After reviewing the progress of organs of democratic decentralisation, it would be pertinent to analyse the role of panchayats in detail and examine the data regarding civic and other amenities of Gandhinagar town.

As the district is devoid of any town having municipality it is not possible to give the description of the civic and other amenities available in the municipal towns. However from the Census Hand-Book 1971, the data regarding civic and other amenities of Gandhinagar town are available. The sub-joined Statement XIV.2 indicates civic and other amenities of Gandhinagar town in the year 1969.

STATEMENT XIV.2

Civic and other Amenities, 1969

| Sl. No. | Name of town | Road length (in km.) | System of sewerage/drainage | No. of Latrines | | | Method of Disposal of night soil |
|------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | Water borne | Service | Others | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | Pucca Road (46.60) Katcha Road (29.50) | Sewerage | 5,626 | .. | .. | Septic tank Latrines |



| Protected Water Supply | Source | | | | | Commercial | Road lighting (Points) | Others |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|---------------------------|--------|
| | Capacity (Litres) | Fire fighting services | Domestic | Industrial | | | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| Tractor, Tailor, Trolleys, or night soil Tankers | 20,456,000 | Yes | 1,350 | .. | 396 | 104 | .. | |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Parts X-A and B, Gandhinagar District, p. 22.

There is absence of civic body to look after the affairs of the town. The township of Gandhinagar is at present under the administrative control of the Government in Public Works Department.

For the disposal of waste water, the township is served by a well-planned network of sewerage. It has protected water supply and is equipped with fire fighting service. The town is electrified.¹

TOWN PLANNING

Location

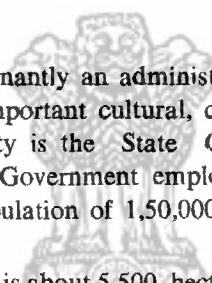
In the district, town planning activity in the past was practically nil. The villages of the district belonged to Baroda and Bombay States and were not touched by the town planning activities of these States.

After the bifurcation of the bilingual Bombay State, a need for a new capital arose. Even during the time of bilingual State, Dr. Jivraj Mehta had declared on 19th March, 1960 at Bombay that the proposed site of the new capital of Gujarat State would be situated 15 miles to the North of Ahmadabad city on the right bank of Sabarmati river, in Kalol taluka of Mahesana district. The Governor of Gujarat State, issued "Ordinance No. VII of 1960 which indicated the site of capital. The Government decided to start at the earliest, the work of the new capital. The Government therefore sanctioned the creation of a circle with the Office of the Superintending Engineer, three Divisional charges and nine Sub-divisional charges with the required staff for carrying out land surveys and other details of the capital. However no progress was made towards the execution of the project till July, 1964 when the Oil and Natural Gas Commission declared the proposed site as free of oil and clearance to go ahead with the project. The Chief Town Planner and Architectural Adviser for the Capital Project was appointed in January, 1965 and a separate organisation for the planning and architectural works was soon established under him. A separate circle was formed under a Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department for the preliminary survey work and execution of the project in the year 1964. In 1967 a separate Chief Engineer was appointed for the project. The Government have constituted, by special notification a district of Gandhinagar having an area of about 58,000 hectares (225 sq. miles) forming roughly an eight km. (five miles) zone around the site of the new city. The district of Gandhinagar comprises 79 villages (4 villages are within the city limits). All development in the district is controlled and regulated by the Gujarat New Capital Periphery Control Act enacted in September, 1960 by the State Legislature.

The site occupying an area of about 5,500 hectares (21 sq. miles) is situated on the banks of the river Sabarmati. About 800 hectares (2000 acres) fall to the east of the river, the river itself occupying about 400 hectares (100 acres). The city proper is planned on the western bank about 21 meters (70 feet) higher than Ahmadabad. The site is level and well drained with a gentle slope from north-east to south-west.

The present railway station of Khodiar on Ahmadabad—Delhi meter-gauge line about 16 km. (10 miles) to the north of Ahmadabad serves as the railway station for Gandhinagar for the time being. The broad-gauge railway line, which at present terminates at Sabarmati is extended to link Gandhinagar. The Ahmadabad-Mount Abu State Highway by passes the site 5 km. (3 miles) to the west while the Bombay-Delhi National Highway No. 8 by passes the site 5 km. (3 miles) to the east, across the river.

The City



The new city is predominantly an administrative centre of the State and consequently has acquired important cultural, civic and allied functions. The principal employer in the city is the State Government and as such the population is based on the Government employment structure. Presently, the city is planned for a population of 1,50,000.

The total area of the site is about 5,500 hectares (13,560 acres) including and divided by the river. The new city is planned on the western bank on 4,300 hectares (10,600 acres) of land. Out of this, about 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) along the river front, which is eroded land are left out, for river side development.

Road System

The approach roads from Khodiar railway station and Ahmadabad join towards the south of the city forming an entrance to it. The pattern of the main city roads is generally rectangular forming a grid of one kilometre by three-fourth kilometre. The roads have been oriented to run 30° north of west and 60° north of east to avoid direct facing of morning and evening sun during journeys to and from work areas. The peripheral roads and the access road to the city centre are 65 m. wide. The roads leading to Government offices from south-west and north-west and the crescent roads are 100 m. wide. The rest of the main city roads are 45 m. wide.

The two main approach roads to Gandhinagar, one from Khodiar Railway station and the other from Ahmadabad-Abu State Highway have already been constructed with two lane carpers. The road side planning along these

highways has also been done. All the main roads of the city which form the grid of 1 km. X $\frac{3}{4}$ km. have been constructed. Many of these roads have also been carpeted and on the rest, laying of the carpet is in progress. The central avenue focussing on the Sachivalaya complex has also been constructed with its central 60 m. wide green park and two lanes of traffic on either side.

Work Areas

The main work areas in the city are:

- (i) Capital Complex and Government Offices.
- (ii) Light Industries Area.
- (iii) City Centre.
- (iv) Public Institutions Area.
- (v) Shopping, Commercial and Warehousing Area.

Capital Complex and Government Offices.

The most important work place in the city is the capital complex and Government offices. The capital complex consisting of Secretariate, Legislative Assembly, the High Court (proposed) and offices of Heads of Departments, is located centrally in one 'sector' with an area of 75 hectares (185 acres). It has been so planned as to merge gradually with the river front landscape to the south-east. Offices of the State Government have been located east of the main city. Moreover they have been located to the north of the capital complex while to the south, the area is reserved for offices of the Government of India. The entire Government offices complex covers an area of about 150 hectares (370 acres). The area is so located as to be within easy reach of the residences of most of the Government employees.

FIRST PHASE PROGRAMME OF WORKS

Buildings

To accommodate the various heads of the departments and administrative offices including Sachivalaya in the new capital, the requisite administrative, residential, civic and other miscellaneous buildings are planned to be constructed. Some of them have been constructed.

Civic Buildings .

To provide the essential amenities-medical, social and cultural and other needs, High Schools, Primary Schools, Arts, Commerce and Science Colleges, Pathikashram, Hospital, etc., have been constructed.

Roads and Bridges

Gandhinagar is planned to have effective network of roads with main sector roads, internal sector roads, cycle tracks, etc.

In the first phase of construction it was proposed to construct about 75 km. length of internal roads and 131 km. length of street roads. The main sector roads and internal sector roads have been provided with asphalt pavement.

Electricity

The Government of Gujarat have extended the area of supply of Ahmedabad Electricity Company and permitted it to supply power in Gandhinagar Township and the Board has continued to give supply to other areas of the district outside its supply limit. The date of commencement of supply to Gandhinagar Township is August, 1969.

Electric supply is made by underground cables thus eliminating the nuisance of overhead wires. The main grid station is situated to the west of the city.

Drainage

The drainage for Gandhinagar has complete treatment plant of 4.5 m.g. d. which consists of a Screen Chamber, a grit chamber, a flow measuring device, a primary clarifier, filter beds, final settling tank, sludge digestors and sludge drying beds. The sewerage treatment site is proposed near village Ognaj about 18 km. (11 miles) from the city towards south-west. The depth of the intercepting sewers will vary from 22 ft. to 30 ft.

No provision for the *pucca* storm water drain is made in the township except in the Sachivalaya area.

Residential Area

The regular pattern of main roads divides the city into rectangular 'sectors' measuring one kilometer by three-fourth kilometer with an area of 75 hectares (185 acres).

Each of these sectors will accommodate, on an average a residential community of about 7,000 persons with the necessary facilities like schools, shopping centre, play grounds, parks etc. Though the families of Government employees may constitute almost 50% of the envisaged population of the city, most of the residential communities are proposed to have population dependent on Government service as well as on others.

Eight categories of residential quarters have been designed for Government employees depending upon their pay-scales. In each residential sector, four categories of Government dwelling units have been put together so as to achieve a balanced social grouping.

Development of ten residential sectors, viz., No. 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28 and 29 and Ministers Housing Area is taken on hand. In these ten sectors, construction of about 5,300 residential quarters for Government employees of various categories is taken on hand. A large number of these quarters have already been allotted while the rest are nearing completion. In the Ministers' Housing Area, construction of 20 bungalows for the ministers has been completed and some of them have been occupied. 11 bungalows for the Secretaries to Government in sector No. 19 are also ready and have been allotted.

Future Expansion

The present development plan provides for a population of about 150 to 175 thousands. Apart from the new city itself, there are a few bigger villages like Kolwada, Pethapur and Vavol just around the capital site which together have a population of about 25,000. In future, this population is very likely to avail of and depend on economic and social services provided in the new city. However, if need be there is scope for the physical expansion of the city towards west.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN BARODA STATE AREAS

In the former State of Baroda since 1893 A. D., steps were taken to preserve the self-Government of the village. Panchayats were constituted in villages, and entrusted with some powers and duties. They were also provided with funds.

The State enacted Gram Panchayat Rules, in 1901. These rules provided that every village with a population of one thousand or more should have panchayat of its own. In course of time a number of amendments and modifications were made and it was thought desirable to draft a fresh Act to include all these. Accordingly, a new Village Panchayats Act, 1920 was passed. This Act laid special emphasis on elective principle. Member-

ship was increased from a minimum of 5 to 9 and from a maximum of 9 to 12. Two third of the members were to be elected by villagers. The President may be and in practise then frequently was chosen by the people.

After the merger of Baroda State into the former Bombay State, the panchayats were governed by the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1933. This Act was subsequently replaced by the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958.

Panchayats in Bombay State Areas

Apart from the villages of the Kalol taluka which formed part of the former Baroda State, the Gandhinagar district also consists of the villages which formerly belonged to City, and Daskroi talukas of the Ahmadabad district. In respect of Local Self-Government units, particularly panchayats, the legislation prevailing in the Bombay State was applicable to them. Under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1933, it was compulsory to establish panchayats in villages having more than 2,000 population. Such Panchayats were established in the villages of the above mentioned area subsequently the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 was made applicable to all the areas. The Act is described below.

The Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958

After the formation of bilingual Bombay State as there were different Acts prevalent in different areas, a new Act called the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 was enacted. Under this Act, a district village panchayat *mandal* was constituted for the district, for exercising powers of supervision, guidance and control over panchayats in the district. In order that the representatives of village panchayats may have an effective voice in shaping the policy in regard to matters concerning village panchayats, seven to twelve members were elected to the *mandal* by Sarpanchas in the district from amongst themselves.

The Important Features of the Act

- (1) reservation of two seats for women in every village panchayat.
- (2) constitution of *gram sabha* of all the residents in the village who are entitled to vote.
- (3) establishment of a district village panchayat *mandal* for every district.
- (4) secretary of a village panchayat to be a Government servant and to be paid by Government.
- (5) training of village panchayat secretaries to be provided by Government.
- (6) entrusting the work of collection of land revenue (including cesses) to the village panchayats.
- (7) payment of land revenue grant to all the village panchayats in the State on an uniform basis at a rate not less than 25 per cent of the ordinary land revenue and not exceeding 30 per cent of the ordinary land revenue and
- (8) constitution of a group *nyaya panchayat* for a group of five villages or more.

Thus in the Act, it would be observed that Government has taken a number of measures to activise the village panchayats and to provide training of rural people in the village administration.

Functions

The panchayats were given more powers and functions under this Act. They have been enumerated in section 45 of the Act and they fall under the different spheres such as:

- (i) maintenance of sanitation and health.
- (ii) maintenance of sanitary public works.
- (iii) maintenance of self-defence and village defence.
- (iv) spread of education and culture.
- (v) running of village administration.
- (vi) improvement of agriculture and preservation of forests.
- (vii) improvement of breeds and protecting cattle.
- (viii) revival and encouragement of village industries.
- (ix) collection of land revenue.

After the formation of Gujarat State on 1st May, 1960, the concept of Democratic Decentralisation gained momentum. The State of Gujarat alike other States of India also strove to achieve Democratic Decentralisation by introducing Panchayati Raj. The circumstances leading to the enactment of Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 and the subsequent development that has taken place are described in the subsequent pages.

DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALISATION

In the First Five Year Plan, the role of local bodies in the implementation of development programmes was emphasised. It indicated that the general policy of Government should be to encourage them to assume responsibility for as large a portion of administrative and social service within their areas, to the extent possible. As these local bodies depended mostly upon Government grants which were subjected to various conditions and restrictions, their activities were too limited to produce any discernible impact on the rural areas. As a result the real object underlying the formation of local self-Government institution was frustrated.

The proposal of the Planning Commission for the Second Five Year Plan stressed the need for creating within the district a well-organised democratic structure of administration in which the village panchayats were

to be organically linked with popular organisations at a higher level. In such a structure, the functions of the popular body would include the entire general administration and development of the areas, other than such functions as law and order, administration of justice and certain functions pertaining to the revenue administration. In this background the Balwantrai Mehta Committee was appointed to go into the question of the working of Community Projects and National Extension Service. After detailed inquiries, the Committee came to the conclusion that community development could not progress without responsibility and power which would be possible only under a process of democratic decentralisation from a village to the district level. They further held that Community Development could be real only when the community realises its responsibilities, exercises its necessary powers through its chosen representatives and maintains continuous interest in local administration. With this object in view, they recommended an early establishment of statutory elective local bodies which alone could lead to effective rural development. They also recommended that necessary resources, powers and authorities should be vested in such bodies. In effect, the Committee recommended that if the experiment of democratic decentralisation were to yield maximum results, it was necessary that all the three tiers of the scheme viz., Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Jilla Parishad should be started at the same time and operated simultaneously in the whole district. In May, 1958, the National Development Council accepted that recommendations of the Committee with regard to the "democratic institutions functioning either at the village level or at the block or taluka level or the district level and that the process of democratisation should be completed as speedily as possible. As agreed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Development Council in January, 1958, the pattern of democratisation would be worked out by the State Governments in the light of their own conditions and requirements. As consequence, the Government of Gujarat appointed a Committee in July, 1960, under the chairmanship of the Revenue Minister to study this question and to make recommendations. This Committee submitted its report on 31st December, 1960. Their recommendations were incorporated in the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 which provided for a three tier system, viz., the gram/nagar panchayats which were already in existence at the lowest level, the taluka panchayat at the taluka level and the district panchayat at the district level. This democratic decentralisation came to be subsequently called the Panchayati Raj.

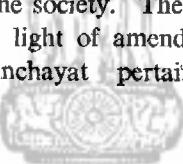
THE GUJARAT PANCHAYATS ACT, 1961

The Panchayati Raj was ushered in the districts of Gujarat on April 1st, 1963 when taluka and district panchayats providing the middle tiers of the democratic decentralisation scheme were formally inaugurated. The introduction of the scheme which vests the elected bodies at all levels with

wide powers and provides them with necessary funds and trained administrative personnel was completed with the formation of the State Panchayat Council on May 1st, 1963.

The Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1961 has been amended recently. In April, 1973, the Gujarat Assembly passed the Panchayats (Amendment) Bill. This Bill sought to reform the institutional set up of the panchayats in the State, on the recommendations of Shri Jhinabhai Darji Committee. It provided for sweeping changes in the election pattern of panchayats. It provides for the direct election of village Sarpanch instead of the present method of electing the Sarpanch by village panchayat members. It sought to do away with the practice of *ex-officio* and co-opted members of the panchayats at the village, the taluka and the district levels. As a result, the village Sarpanchas and taluka panchayat presidents have been automatically debarred from becoming *ex-officio* members of the taluka and district panchayats, respectively. This also affected village Sarpanchas who used to become *ex-officio* members of panchayats. The amended Act has provided more representation in panchayats to women and proportionate representation to Adivasis and Harijans. Another significant provision in the amendment is for setting up of social justice committees at all levels to safeguard the interest of weaker sections of the society. These changes are incorporated at the appropriate places. In the light of amendment, revised statement of taluka panchayats and district panchayat pertaining to composition have been introduced.

The Gram Sabha



सत्यमेव जयते

All adult persons whose names are included in the list of voters maintained for a gram shall be deemed to constitute a Gram Sabha of the gram. A Gram Sabha has to hold annually at least two meetings, provided that the Sarpanch may, at his option and if required by taluka panchayat or district panchayat call a meeting of the Gram Sabha. It has to consider annual statement of accounts, administration report, development and other programme of works and the audit notes and replies thereto and any other matter which the taluka panchayat or district panchayat, may require to be placed before the meeting of the *gram sabha*.

The *gram sabha* is required to carry out such other functions as prescribed in the Gujarat Gram Panchayats (Gram Sabha Meetings and Functions) Rules, 1964.

The Gram Panchayat/Nagar Panchayat,

A gram panchayat is constituted for a local area, population of which is less than 10,000 and a *nagar* panchayat is constituted for a local area

the population of which normally exceeds 10,000 but does not exceed 20,000. Such a local area may be a revenue village, or a group of revenue villages or hamlets forming part of a revenue village or such other administrative unit or part thereof. The number of members of a *gram* panchayat varies from 7 to 15 and that of a *nagar* panchayat from 15 to 21. By the recent amendment, the Sarpanch is to be elected by ballot by the qualified voters of the village from amongst themselves and the Upsarpanch shall be elected by the members of village panchayat from amongst themselves and a *nagar* panchayat will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from its own members.

Provision is made for reservation of seats for women in the following manner :

- (i) Two seats where the total number of seats does not exceed seven
- (ii) three seats where the total number of seats exceeds seven but does not exceed eleven, and
- (iii) four seats where the total number of seats exceeds eleven, and
- (iv) one seat for a member of the Scheduled Castes and one seat for the Scheduled Tribes in every *gram* panchayat. In addition to allotment of one reserved post for the Scheduled Castes, more seats were allotted on the basis of their population in the *gram* panchayat/*nagar* panchayat. Provision is also made for the reservation of the members of the Scheduled Tribes on the population basis. In case of the *nagar* panchayat for women following amendment is made. Four seats where the total number of seats does not exceed eighteen and five seats where the total number of seats exceeds eighteen shall be reserved for women.

Duties of a *gram/nagar* panchayat are specified in the Act. If the funds permit, the *gram/nagar* panchayat has discretion to take up certain other activities such as education, medical relief, promotion of social, economic and cultural well-being of the inhabitants of its areas and arranging public receptions, ceremonies or entertainments within its jurisdiction.

District Panchayat

Gandhinagar District Panchayat came into existence in 1974. It is too early to judge its performance.

Statement XIV.3 shows the compositions of *gram* panchayats and *nagar* panchayats as on 1-1-71, while statement XIV.4—shows income and expenditure of *gram* and *nagar* panchayats in 1969-70.

STATEMENT XIV.3

Composition of Gram Nagar Panchayats as on 1-1-1971

| Sl. No. | Taluka | No. of Gram Panchayats | Composition | | | | | | Total Seats (6+9) | |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | | | Non reserved Seats | | | Reserved Seats | | | | |
| | | | Women | Scheduled Castes | Scheduled Tribes | Women | Scheduled Castes | Scheduled Tribes | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 70 | 718 | 507 | 140 | 71 | .. | 211 | 718 | |

| Sl. No. | Elected Members | Nominated Members (11+12) | Members | | | | | | Total Nominated Members | |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | Elected Members | | | Nominated Members | | | | |
| | | | Non-reserved Seats | Total Members | Women | Scheduled Castes | Scheduled Tribes | Women | Scheduled Castes | Scheduled Tribes |
| 1 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 1 | 507 | .. | 507 | 140 | 71 | .. | .. | .. | 578 | 140 |
| | | | | | | | | | .. | .. |
| 1 | 507 | .. | 507 | 140 | 71 | .. | .. | .. | 578 | 140 |
| | | | | | | | | | .. | .. |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Part X-G.I, Gandhinagar District, p. 27.

STATEMENT XIV.4

Income and Expenditure of Gram Nagar Panchayats, 1969-70

(Rs. IN '000)

| Sl. No. | Taluk No. | No. of Gram Panchayats | No. of Nagar Panchayats | Income | | | | Expenditure | | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Planning and Village defence | Community and Administration | Agricultural Development of Forests and lands |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 74 | .. | | 251,651 | 169,512 | 130,021 | 55,184 | | | | |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 177,250 | 176,564 | 42,597 | 2,620 | 117,278 | 10,867 | 927 | 170 | 1,248 | 1,173 | 530,696 |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Part X-C.1, Gandhinagar District, p. 28.

ANNEXURE

Rest Houses

Pathik Ashram

Road Rest House

Rest House.

Institutions

Arts, Science and Commerce College

Co-operative Training College

P.W.D. Staff Training College

Central School

Secondary Schools

**Sector Primary Schools
(in each Sector)**

Public Library

Banks

Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank

Allhabad Bank

Bank of Baroda

Bank of India

Central Bank

Dena Bank

Indian Overseas Bank

Punjab National Bank

State Bank of India

United Commercial Bank

Union Bank

Hospitals

Ayurvedic Hospital (Sectors 22-29).

Civil Hospital



Health Clinics
(in each sector)

Places of Worship

Church
Jain Derasar
Manav Mandir
Mosque
Swaminarayan Mandir

Entertainment

Community Centre
Garden Boating (Sector 28)
Garden Mini Train (Sector 28)
Garden
Gayatri Cinema
'Ja' Road Boating Club (P)
'Ja' Road Picnic Spot (P)
Shalimar Cinema
Sports Complex and Stadium
Swimming Pool (P)
Town Park (P)



Shopping Centres

Adarsh Bhojnalaya
Apana Bazar Department Store
Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan
Petrol Pump
Sector Shopping Centres
(in each sector)
Vegetable Market,

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Historical Background

INDIGENOUS SYSTEM

The Elementary Indigenous School

In the early part of the 19th century, like in other parts of the State, in this part also there were indigenous schools mostly supported by the local people. Attendance in such schools was very poor. These schools were housed in religious or public buildings. The age of the pupils varied from 6 to 14 and they were taught rudiment of reading, writing and arithmetic. The pupils in such schools mostly belonged to Brahman and other trading community. Antyajas were not admitted in these schools. Though the teachers were mostly Brahmans, sometimes they were also a Vania, Kanbi or Brahmkshatriya. In case of a Brahman, the profession of teaching was hereditary. The teachers were paid both in cash and kind.¹

Before the formation of this district in 1964, a large area of this district formed a part of the Mahesana and the Ahmadabad districts. Before Independence, some villages of these two districts were under the Ex-Vadodara State and under the British province. The progress of education in those villages as compared to others was remarkable. The Vadodara State was pioneer in the country for the introduction of compulsory primary education. As a result, a number of primary schools were started in those villages of this district, which were formerly in the Vadodara State. In the year 1863, two primary schools were started at Adalaj and Por. Thereafter, two more Gujarati schools were opened, at Pethapur in 1865 and at Dabhoda in 1868. During the period of 1871-80, four new schools were added. In 1922, in Pethapur State, there were two Gujarati Schools (1 for boys and 1 for girls). The total number of students in these schools was 325. There was also one private Anglo-vernacular school with 50 students. During the same period, there was also a Gujarat school in Ranasan State.² Subsequently, number of primary schools were established at different places of the district.

After Independence, and with the merger of the princely States in the Bombay State, expansion of the primary education received great attention. In 1953-54, the Government launched an intensive drive for providing schools to as many villages as possible. Three programmes were undertaken

1. RAJYAGOR, S. B., *Education in Gujarat from 1854-1954* (1957).

2. FRAMROZ SORABJI MASTER, *The Mahikantha Directory*, (Pethapur), Vol. I., 1922, p. 173.

for this purpose. The first was the opening of independent schools in school-less villages with a population of 500 or over (these were mostly single-teacher institutions). Under the second scheme, known as the group-schools scheme, small villages, which could not be given independent schools of their own, were grouped with neighbouring villages where a school existed already, or where a new school was specially opened for the purpose. The third was known as the scheme of peripatetic teachers. According to this scheme, a teacher was appointed to work in both the villages in any one of the three ways, (1) to hold the morning session of the school in one village and the afternoon session in another one on the same day; (2) to hold school alternately in each village on six days of the week; and (3) to hold school on three consecutive days of each week in one village and on the remaining consecutive days in the other. As a result of this scheme, a number of villages was covered with primary schools. With the introduction of Panchayati Raj in Gujarat (1-4-1963), primary education except in authorised municipal areas, was transferred to the District Panchayats. The District Panchayat discharges its responsibilities through the Education committee. The Education Department of the State appoints Administrative Officers in the districts for the administration of the primary education under Panchayats. In the urban areas, the responsibility for the primary education is entrusted to Administrative Officer who is looking after it as there are no authorised municipalities in the district. The following table shows the decennial progress of primary education in the district upto 1964 i.e. before the creation of this district.

| Period 1 | Number of Primary Schools | | | | Total 5 |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|----|------------|
| | Boys 2 | Girls 3 | Mixed 4 | | |
| 1881-90 | .. | 7 | 3 | 17 | 27 |
| 1891-1900 | .. | 8 | 3 | 24 | 35 |
| 1901-10 | .. | 8 | 7 | 34 | 49 |
| 1911-20 | .. | 8 | 7 | 38 | 53 |
| 1921-30 | .. | 8 | 7 | 39 | 54 |
| 1931-40 | .. | 8 | 7 | 44 | 59 |
| 1941-50 | .. | 8 | 7 | 49 | 64 |
| 1951-60 | .. | 8 | 7 | 75 | 90 |
| 1961-64 | .. | 8 | 8 | 79 | 95 |

Source :
Administrative Officer, Gandhinagar District

The beginning of the secondary education in the district may be traced to the year 1913 when a secondary school at Pethapur was established.

Thereafter, a school at Unava was started in the year 1923. Subsequently, two more schools were opened, one at Randheja in 1940 and the other at Sardhav in 1942. On the eve of Independence, there were in all four secondary schools in the villages of this district. In the year 1961 when the Gujarat State was constituted there were 9 secondary schools in this district. At the time of the formation of this district in 1964, there were 14 secondary schools.

LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Growth of Literacy

According to figures worked out by the Bureau of Economics, the percentage of general literacy in the district was 34.02 per cent in 1961. In the case of male literacy, the percentages was recorded 47.00 and for female it was 21.00 per cent.¹ In 1971, the general literacy of the district rose to 41.80 per cent, (53.80 males and 28.84 females). In the urban areas, according to 1971 Census the percentage of literacy was 55.52 for persons (63.12 males and 46.66 females). In the rural areas, the percentage of literacy was 39.93 (52.48 for males and 26.52 for females).

Population Growth and Literacy

In the district, the growth of population during the period from 1961 to 1971 was 46.39 per cent. As compared to this, the growth of general literacy during the same period was 7.60 per cent. It indicates that the rate of growth of literacy did not keep pace with that of the population.

According to the figures worked out by the Bureau of Economics in 1961, in general literacy the district ranked sixth among the districts of the State, but in the case of rural literacy, it ranked first in all the three categories i.e., persons, males and females.

According to 1971 Census, the Gandhinagar district occupied the third rank in the case of general literacy for persons and males, and in the case of female literacy the district ranked fourth. Among the rural areas, in the case of literacy of persons, males and females, the district occupied first rank among all the districts of the State. However, in the urban areas, the district occupied seventh rank among the persons and female literacy, while it ranked tenth in case of male literacy.

The percentage of literacy to total population by age and sex is given for total/rural/urban in the following statement.

1. *Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. XII, No. I, Jan.-March, 1972,
Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Gujarat, Ahmedabad.
2. *District Census Handbook 1971*, Parts X-A & B, Gandhinagar.

STATEMENT XV.1

Literacy Percentages By Age-Groups, 1971

| Age-groups | Total | | | Rural | | | Urban | | |
|----------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| | Persons | Males | | Persons | Males | | Persons | Males | |
| | | Males | Females | | Males | Females | | Males | Females |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| All Ages | .. | .. | 41.80 | 53.80 | 28.84 | 39.93 | 52.48 | 26.52 | 55.52 |
| 0- 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 5- 9 | .. | .. | 29.81 | 34.01 | 25.95 | 27.30 | 31.53 | 22.40 | 46.87 |
| 10- 14 | .. | .. | 68.85 | 79.77 | 55.84 | 67.81 | 79.05 | 54.58 | 79.19 |
| 15- 19 | .. | .. | 64.82 | 80.00 | 48.02 | 63.79 | 79.22 | 46.70 | 73.62 |
| 20- 24 | .. | .. | 58.17 | 73.81 | 43.18 | 59.38 | 72.73 | 40.47 | 69.15 |
| 25- 34 | .. | .. | 52.09 | 68.47 | 34.32 | 47.62 | 65.72 | 29.08 | 72.71 |
| 35 + | .. | .. | 37.71 | 56.61 | 18.63 | 35.71 | 53.22 | 16.42 | 60.03 |
| Age not stated | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Source : Office of the Director of Census Operation, Gujarat, Provisional Data.

Literates among children in the age-groups 5-9 and 10-14 constituted 29.81 per cent and 68.85 per cent respectively, of whom males accounted for 34.01 and 79.77 per cent and females 25.25 and 55.84 per cent respectively. The highest percentage of literacy among persons was found in the age-group 10-14 in total/rural and urban areas. The highest percentage among male literates was recorded in the age-group 15-19 in total/rural and urban areas. It is interesting to note that among females the highest percentage of literacy was recorded in the age-group 10-14 in total/rural and urban areas. The percentage of female literacy recorded a progressive decreasing trend in the higher age-groups indicating the keen interest taken by people in the sphere of female education in recent years.

Educational Standards

The true picture of the educational standards in the district can be had from the Census (1971) Statement shown below:



STATEMENT XV.2
Educational Levels in Urban and Rural Areas, 1971

| Sl. No. 1 | Educational Levels 2 | Urban | | | | Rural | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | Persons 3 | Males 4 | Females 5 | Persons 6 | Males 7 | Females 8 | |
| Total | .. | 24,055 | 12,945 | 11,110 | 176,587 | 91,774 | 85,443 | |
| 1. Illiterate | .. | 10,702 | 4,775 | 5,927 | 106,082 | 43,325 | 62,757 | |
| 2. Literate (without educational level) | .. | 3,883 | 2,174 | 1,709 | 37,358 | 23,041 | 14,317 | |
| 3. Primary | .. | 2,996 | 1,642 | 1,354 | 20,254 | 14,346 | 5,908 | |
| 4. Middle | .. | 1,772 | 920 | 852 | 57,367 | 5,830 | 1,537 | |
| 5. Matriculation or Higher Secondary | .. | 2,819 | 1,794 | 1,025 | 3,987 | 3,304 | 683 | |
| 6. Non-technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | .. | 15 | 15 | .. | 620 | 439 | 181 | |
| 7. Technical diploma or certificate not equal to degree | .. | 131 | 126 | 5 | 60 | 60 | .. | |
| 8. Graduates and above : | | | | | | | | |
| A. Graduate degree other than technical degree | .. | 1,737 | 1,499 | 238 | 859 | 829 | 30 | |
| B. Post Graduate degree other than technical degree | .. | 1,077 | 894 | 183 | .. | .. | .. | |
| C. Technical degree or Diploma equal to degree or post-graduate degree | .. | 252 | 207 | 45 | .. | .. | .. | |
| (i) Engineering and Technology | .. | .. | 353 | 343 | 10 | .. | .. | |
| (ii) Medicine | .. | .. | 30 | 30 | .. | .. | .. | |
| (iii) Agriculture, Veterinary and Dairying | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| (iv) Teaching | .. | .. | 15 | 15 | .. | .. | .. | |
| (v) Others | .. | .. | 10 | 10 | .. | .. | .. | |

Source : Office of the Director of Census Operation, Gujarat, Provisional Data.

This Statement clearly shows the common pattern of standard of education in the urban and rural areas. Generally, the standard of education is lower in the countryside than in the towns as educational facilities in the towns are comparatively greater. As worked out from the Statement, 60.07 per cent of the total rural population was illiterate as against 44.48 per cent for the urban areas.

In the recent years, appreciable progress in the field of higher and technical education has been made in the district. According to the Statement, in the urban areas, 1,329 persons received higher education (graduate and post-graduate degrees) other than technical degrees and 408 persons were reported to have acquired technical qualifications. It is interesting to note that, of the persons taking post-S.S.C. courses, 23.49 per cent held technical degrees and 76.51 per cent had university degrees or post-graduate degrees other than technical degrees.

Among the technical courses, ‘Engineering’ ‘Medicine’ and ‘Teaching’ are given preference by the people. Females have started taking benefits of higher education though their number is very small in comparison to the males.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG WOMEN

Sayajirac III, the Ruler of Ex-Vadodara State, stressed the need of female education. His views about the importance of female education were aptly expressed in the memorandum¹, which read as under:

सत्यमव जपने

“..... It is the unremitting watchfulness and conciliatory supervision of intelligent and educated mothers which forms powerful factors in giving right tone to infant minds, and which are best agents for the eradication of crooked ways. Women regulate the social life of a people and men and women, rise or fall together.....”

His liberal views were reflected in the State Government’s policy to open separate schools for girls in all the places, where sufficient number of girl students were forthcoming, and in case, where it was not possible, the girls under 12 years of age were admitted to the boys schools. In all cases, inducement in the shape of special prizes and scholarships were given to girls who regularly attended the schools. As a result of this liberal policy, the villages of Ex-Vadodara State, made considerable progress in this field. But in the villages which were formerly in the Ahmadabad district, the progress of female education was inadequate except at few centres. Besides this, there were other reasons also for slow progress of the female education

1. DESAI G. H. AND CLARKE A. B., *Gazetteer of the Baroda State*, Vol. II, 1923, p. 315.

in the district. In a number of villages, the predominant castes were Thakardas, Rajputs, Kolis and Scheduled Castes. These classes were not interested in education in general and therefore their females were locked up in the kitchen and in the field for miscellaneous work. Among the so called upper classes also, the traditional prejudice against women education persisted because of general backwardness of the society in the district. As a result, on the whole, the progress of female education in the district was not adequate.

One more factor responsible for reluctance of the parents to send their daughters was the absence of separate educational institutions for girls. The first primary school for girls was started in the district at Pethapur in the year 1885. Thereafter another school for girls was started at Dabhoda in the year 1886. On the eve of Independence, there were seven primary schools for girls in the district.

After the formation of the district in 1964, some progress was made in the field of primary education for girls. This can be clearly seen from the following statement.

| Year | No. of girls' schools | No. of girls students | No. of girls studying in mixed schools | Total No. of girl students in primary schools |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1966-67 | .. | 10 | 2,639 | 5,157 |
| 1970-71 | .. | 9 | 2,672 | 7,256 |
| 1973-74 | .. | 7 | 2,488 | 8,838 |

Source :

Administrative Officer, District Gandhinagar.

In the field of secondary education, the progress is comparatively less impressive. One of the factors responsible for this was the absence of separate secondary schools for girls in the district. In the earlier stages, separate schools for girls were started only in the primary section. As such, by and large, girls discontinued their studies after completion of the primary stage. Early marriage was also an important factor for discouraging girls taking secondary education. There is not a single separate secondary school for girls in the district. The number of girls taking secondary education in the mixed schools was 2,250 in the year 1973-74.

For the girls of the district the nearest places for higher education are Kalol, Pilwai, Mansa and Ahmadabad and the parents were reluctant to send their girls for higher education to places outside their home towns

due to their orthodoxy. They began to study in colleges when Arts, Science and Commerce colleges were opened at Gandhinagar. In the year 1973-74, the number of girls taking higher education was 359.

To meet the shortage of trained women teachers, two women's training institutions for primary teachers were started respectively at Adalaj and Koba. There was also one training college for pre-primary teachers at Adalaj and one college for physical education having C. P. Ed. and D.P. Ed. courses, for girls.

SPREAD OF EDUCATION AMONG BACKWARD CLASSES.

Literacy and education among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the urban and rural areas as per 1971 Census are given below.

| | Total Population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes | | | | Literate and Educated persons | | | Percentage of literacy | | |
|----------|---|-------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|--|
| | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| Total .. | 13,546 | 6,961 | 6,585 | 5,776 | 3,875 | 1,901 | 42.64 | 55.67 | 28.87 | |
| Rural .. | 11,431 | 5,785 | 5,646 | 4,728 | 3,155 | 1,573 | 41.36 | 54.54 | 27.86 | |
| Urban .. | 2,115 | 1,176 | 939 | 1,048 | 720 | 328 | 49.55 | 61.22 | 34.93 | |

Source :

District Census Handbook 1971, Gandhinagar, Part X-C-I, pp. 65-71.

These figures reveal a considerable growth of literacy among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the district. However, it can be noticed that both in rural as well as urban areas, the level of female education was very low in comparison to the male education.

The percentage of Scheduled Castes literacy in 1971 was 43.22 per cent of their population, while the percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Tribes during this period was 23.89 per cent, suggesting very little impact of literacy drive on this section of the society.

Educational Facilities for Backward Classes

According to the 1971 Census, the population of the Scheduled Castes was 6.55 per cent and that of Scheduled Tribes was 0.20 per cent of the

total population of the district. Before Independence, some steps were taken to promote education among the Backward Classes of the area, both by the Ex-Vadodara State and the British Government in their respective villages. After Independence, realising the need of levelling up the Backward Classes, the Bombay State constituted a separate Department in the year 1951. The Backward Class children were provided with tuition fees, examination fees, scholarships, hostel facilities, etc. The educational concessions provided by the Bombay State are still continued in the Gujarat State after the bifurcation. These are briefly given below.

The primary and secondary education is free for all the classes of the students. The Backward Class students studying in schools run by Government or local bodies in Std. V to VIII., and students studying in non-Government and Government Secondary Schools in Std. VIII to XI., and those who have secured 40 per cent of marks or more in the last examination and whose parents or guardians annual income does not exceed Rs. 7,200 are given lump sum scholarships as under.

| | | |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Std. V to VII. | Primary | Rs. 40 per year |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Std. VIII to XI. | Secondary | Rs. 75 per year. |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|

Backward Class students studying in Std. V to VII., in private primary schools which are attached to non-Government secondary schools in which they have to pay tuition fees and those who have secured 45 per cent of marks or more in the last annual examination are given scholarships at the following rates without taking into consideration the income of the parents.

Std. V Rs. 60 per year

Std. VI Rs. 75 per year

Std. VII Rs. 90 per year

Those Backward Class students, who are preparing for the technical courses are given scholarships of Rs. 115 per annum and those who are preparing for professional courses like tailoring, electrical, welder, etc., are given a scholarship of Rs. 40 per month for 10 months, and full tuition fees and examination fees. The students appearing for the S. S. C. Examination are also given examination fees.

Under the Government of India Schemes for the Backward Class students, the State Government awards scholarships (including tuition fees and examination fees) to deserving students for prosecuting post-secondary

school courses and post-graduate courses. The amount of scholarships varies from Rs. 40 to 140/- per month plus tuition fees and examination fees, according to the faculties such as Arts, Science, Medicine, Engineering, etc., as under, selected by the students for their career.

Maintenance Allowances (Scholarship)

| Course of Study 1 | Year of course of study 2 | Rate of Allowance | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Hostel Students | | Day Scholar | |
| | | Boys 3 | Girls 4 | Boys 5 | Girls 6 |
| <i>Group A.</i> | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Higher Technical and Professional and Social Studies for degree and Post Graduates Course. | 1st year 2nd year and after | 125 125 | 136 140 | 75 75 | 85 90 |
| <i>Group B.</i> | | | | | |
| Degree and Diploma level courses in Medicine, Engineering, Technology, Architecture, Business Administration etc. | 1st year 2 d year and after | 90 95 | 100 110 | 60 65 | 70 80 |
| <i>Group C.</i> | | | | | |
| Certificate course in Engineering, Technology etc., Diploma and certificate course in Agriculture veterinary etc., Post graduate course in Arts, commerce subject. | 1st year 2nd year and after | 80 85 | 90 100 | 50 55 | 60 70 |
| <i>Group D.</i> | | | | | |
| General Courses upto Graduate level. | 1st year 2nd year and after | 70 75 | 80 90 | 40 45 | 50 60 |

The scheme is being administered by the State Government through the Directorate of Social Welfare at the State level. To facilitate the admission in various courses, the Government has reserved 20 per cent seats for them in various educational institutions.

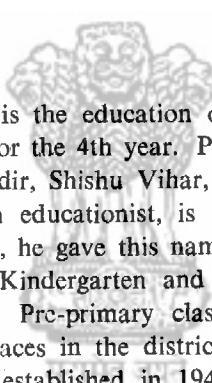
Hostel Facilities—The provision of hostel facility to the needy children of the Backward Classes induces them to take up higher education. There is one Backward Class hostel for the Scheduled Castes students at Pethapur, with the strength of 20 inmates. In this hostel, inmates are provided free lodging, boarding and other facilities. The voluntary agency running this hostel is given financial assistance by the State Government.

After the formation of the Gandhinagar district, the total financial assistance sanctioned to the Backward Class students under the various educational schemes upto 1974-75 is as under :

| <i>Scheme</i> | <i>Amount Sanctioned</i> | | | <i>No. of students</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----|----------|------------------------|
| | Rs. | | | |
| Tuition fees | .. | .. | 1,66,955 | 3,265 |
| Examination fees | .. | .. | 10,994 | 588 |
| Scholarships (Pre-S.S.C.) | .. | .. | 3,23,686 | 6,822 |
| Hostel Facilities | .. | .. | 37,105 | 98 |

GENERAL EDUCATION

Pre-primary Education



Pre-primary education is the education of the child below the age of six. It begins from the 3rd or the 4th year. Pre-primary school is commonly known as Balwadi, Balmandir, Shishu Vihar, etc., in Gujarati. Mr. Wilhem August Froebel, a German educationist, is known as the father of pre-primary education. In 1837, he gave this name to such a school. In India, the credit for introducing Kindergarten and Montessory systems goes to the Christian Missionaries. Pre-primary classes of the Balmandir pattern are conducted at several places in the district. Among them the Kasturba Sanskar Kendra at Sugad, established in 1948 is the oldest.

In the year 1973-74, there were 28 Balmandirs in the district. The Social Welfare Board (Ahmadabad) and the Kasturba Gandhi Rashtriya Smarak Fund (Koba) are conducting a number of Balmandirs in this district. The number of children admitted to these Balmandirs during the period 1970-71 to 1974-75 was as under :

| <i>Year</i> | | | <i>Boys</i> | <i>Girls</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-------------|----|----|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1970-71 | .. | .. | 540 | 428 | 968 |
| 1971-72 | .. | .. | 585 | 517 | 1,102 |
| 1972-73 | .. | .. | 615 | 598 | 1,213 |
| 1973-74 | .. | .. | 690 | 610 | 1,300 |
| 1974-75 | .. | .. | 710 | 622 | 1,332 |

Source :
District Education Officer, Gandhinagar.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

According to the 1971 Census, out of 75 villages of the district, only 2 villages or 3.53 per cent were without any primary school. The number of scholars per one thousand of population was 122 and the area covered per school was 6.48 sq. km. Out of 108 primary schools, 17 were single-teacher schools in the non-municipal areas. The number of scholars per school came to 227 and the number of scholars per teacher came to 36.

After the formation of the Gandhinagar district in 1964, the district had made a very rapid progress in the field of primary education. This can be seen from the following table.

| Year 1 | No. of primary schools (including basic schools) 2 | No. of pupils | | |
|-----------|---|---------------|------------|------------|
| | | Boys 3 | Girls 4 | Total 5 |
| 1966-67 | .. | 99 | 13,929 | 7,796 |
| 1970-71 | .. | 117 | 16,953 | 9,928 |
| 1973-74 | .. | 115 | 18,994 | 11,560 |
| | | | | 30,554 |

Source : Administrative Officer, District Panchayat, Gandhinagar.

As can be seen from the above, primary education registered a remarkable progress during the period from 1966-67 to 1973-74. The number of primary schools rose from 99 in 1966-67 to 115 in 1973-74, while the number of pupils rose from 21,725 to 30,554 during the same period.

In Gandhinagar town, there is one Government primary school in each sector (total 8 primary schools). Over and above this, St. Xavier's and Mount Carmel group are running a primary school in Sector No. 20 and a Central School is run by the Government of India in Sector No. 29. A private primary school has been started in 1975 in Sector 22 by the Swaminarayan Trust.

Compulsory Primary Education

Some villages of this district were under the Ex-Vadodara State where compulsion was introduced since 1906 with the result that the benefit of compulsory education was extended to these villages. The details of the Vadodara State scheme of compulsion is described as under.

The Vadodara State was a pioneer State in introducing compulsory education in India. Before the educationists in British India thought about

compulsory education, Vadodara State piloted a project on an experimental basis for compulsory education. In 1892, it was first introduced in the town of Amreli and in nine villages of the Amreli taluka in the first three standards. All the boys between the ages of 7 and 12 and all the girls between 7 and 10 years living within a mile of the school were compelled to attend the school. Thereafter, it was introduced throughout the State in 1906 and was modified successively in 1910, 1916 and 1926, during which period the age limit was raised to 14 for boys and 12 for girls. The Act had however no teeth sufficient to compel attendance in schools. The guardians particularly agriculturists did not mind one or two annas by way of fine for non-attendance of the child at school, as the child could earn six to eight annas a day in the field.

The Compulsory Education Act, 1906 of Vadodara State remained in force till 1948 in the villages of Ex-Vadodara State. Thereafter, the Bombay Primary Education Act, 1947 was applied to the district covering the age-group 7-11.

In the villages of this district which were formerly in Ahmadabad district, the Bombay State Compulsory Education Act, was in force since 1947. According to it, the children in the age-group 7-8 years, residing in villages with a population of more than one thousand were brought under the compulsion. This scheme was extended by stages as shown below:

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Age-group</i> |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1948-49 | सन्यमेव जप्तने 7 - 9 |
| 1949-50 | 7 - 10 |
| 1950-51 | 7 - 11 |

During the First Five Year Plan, compulsory education was introduced from August 1, 1954 for the age-group 7-8 years in towns and villages having a population of one thousand or more. This scheme was applied to other age-groups in due course as shown below:

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Age-group</i> |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1955-56 | 7 - 9 |
| 1956-57 | 7 - 10 |
| 1957-58 | 7 - 11 |

Source :

66th Session, Indian National Congress "Souvenir" Bhavnagar, 1961, p. 230.

During the Second Five Year Plan, compulsory primary education was introduced from September 1, 1956, in all the towns, and villages having a population between 500 and 999. Excepting a few villages, the scheme was gradually extended to the following age-groups, from October 1, 1956 to include small villages with a population of even less than 500 souls.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Age-group</i> |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1956-57 | 7 - 8 |
| 1957-58 | 7 - 9 |
| 1958-59 | - |
| 1959-60 | 7 - 10 |

According to the Constitutional provision, primary education should be free and universal. By the end of 1960, compulsory primary education for the age-group 6-14 was to be introduced, but this target could not be achieved even in 1974 for the age-group 7-11, and many children of the school going age still have not been admitted for Socio-economic reasons*.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

As per Government rules, every teacher is expected to teach 40 students per class, but in the rural areas the number of students per class is less than 40, and so he is required to teach students in more than one classes. In the urban areas, the number of pupils sometimes exceeds 40 and the schools are required to run in shift due to lack of accommodation. The number of teachers rose from 701 in 1969-70 to 839 in 1971-72 and to 909 in 1973-74. It is noteworthy that almost all the teachers were trained in the district. This was due to opening of two training colleges at Adalaj and Koba in 1960 and 1966 respectively. The following table gives details of the trained and untrained teachers in the district.

Teachers in Primary Schools

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Number of Teachers in Primary Schools</i> | | | <i>Percentage of Males and Females Teachers</i> | | <i>No. of Trained Teachers</i> | <i>Percentage of Trained Teachers</i> | |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| | <i>Males</i> <i>1</i> | <i>Females</i> <i>2</i> | <i>Total</i> <i>3</i> | <i>Males</i> <i>5</i> | <i>Females</i> <i>6</i> | | | |
| 1969-70 | .. | 486 | 215 | 701 | 69.33 | 30.67 | 648 | 92.44 |
| 1970-71 | ... | 500 | 271 | 771 | 64.85 | 35.15 | 735 | 95.33 |
| 1971-72 | .. | 523 | 316 | 839 | 62.34 | 37.66 | 817 | 97.38 |
| 1972-73 | .. | 533 | 326 | 859 | 62.05 | 37.95 | 850 | 98.95 |
| 1973-74 | .. | 539 | 370 | 909 | 59.30 | 40.70 | 902 | 99.23 |

Source :
Administrative Officer, Gandhinagar.

* *Perspective Plan of Gujarat 1974-1984. Vol. III, Government of Gujarat.*

Basic Education

The main idea behind basic education is that education should centre round some form of manual productive work. Children should not get merely bookish knowledge but should also learn some simple craft to inculcate in them a sense of self-reliance, responsibility, initiative, enterprize and resourcefulness. In the year 1966-67, 33 primary schools were converted into basic schools. In the year 1970-71, their number rose to 42, of which 3 were junior and 39 were senior basic schools. Out of these schools, 2 taught purely spinning, 32 spinning and weaving, 3 kitchen gardening and agriculture and 1 imparted training in card-board modelling. During the year 1973-74, the number of schools further rose to 114 (30 junior and 84 senior). Among these 2 were devoted to purely spinning, 42 spinning and weaving, 5 kitchen gardening and agriculture and 46 equipped with purely card-board modelling. The number of students covered the basic education in the district, during the year 1973-74 was 30,435, out of total number of 30,540 pupils.

In 1973-74, 9 Adarsh Schools in the district were given Rs. 1000/- for purchase of teaching aids and raw material for crafts taught in the schools.

Training Facilities for Primary School Teachers

For qualitative improvement of primary education, it is very necessary that the primary teachers should have good academic qualifications and training. The first training college for women was started in the year 1960 at Adalaj, and another at Koba in 1966. The following measures were taken by the State Government for qualitative improvement of teachers and training: only S.S.C. qualified teachers are admitted in the training colleges. Secondly, admission is given to the teachers who have passed S.S.C. Examination with Mathematics and Science subjects and have secured 50 per cent of marks in the aggregate. Exception is, however, made in case of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe teachers, for whom securing a minimum of 45 per cent of marks is essential.

There is also one institution for women for pre-primary teachers at Adalaj, established in the year 1962. It admits P.S.C. and S.S.C. passed students.

The details of these institutions are as under.

Pre-primary and Primary Teachers Training Colleges

| Sl. No. | Name of the institution | Location | Year of establish- ment | Male/ female | Management | Pupils 1974-75 |
|------------|--|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | Smt. Manekba Stree Adhyapan Mandir. | Adalaj | 1960 | Females | Vasumati Charity Trust C/o. Sheth C. N. Vidya Vihar, Ahmadabad. | 160 |
| 2 | Smt. Manekba Purva-Prathmik Adhyapan Mandir. | Adalaj | 1962 | Females | -do- | 66 |
| 3 | Kasturba Stree Adhyapan Mandir, Koba. | Koba | 1966 | Females | Kasturba National Memorial Trust, Koba. | 165 |

Hostel facilities are provided to the needy students.

School Buildings

The problems of housing the increasing number of pupils in the schools, is also an important item in the development programme. On the eve of Independence, there were only 30 primary school buildings constructed in the district.

सत्यमेव जयते

An intensified programme for construction of primary school buildings was initiated during the First Five Year Plan and continued in the Second, Third and Fourth Plan periods with much success. During the year 1974-75, only 3 buildings were constructed. There were 147 school rooms for 114 schools, out of which 125 rooms were owned by the schools and 22 were rented rooms.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Secondary education constitute a vital link between the primary and the higher education. Broadly speaking, secondary schools are intended to impart education suitable for pupils in the adolescent stage of education.

The following table shows the progress of secondary education in the district after 1966-67.

| Year 1 | No. of Schools 2 | Boys 3 | Girls 4 | Total 5 | Teachers 6 |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| 1966-67 | 18 | N. A. | N. A. | N. A. | N. A. |
| 1969-70 | 20 | 3,424 | 943 | 4,367 | 180 |
| 1973-74 | 31 | 4,460 | 1,872 | 6,332 | 296 |
| 1974-75 | 31 | 4,579 | 1,977 | 6,556 | 310 |

Source :

District Education Officer, Gandhinagar District, Gandhinagar.

The above table shows a remarkable growth between 1969-70 to 1974-75, when there was an addition of 11 new schools and 2,189 students. The percentage increase for the schools was 64.52 and for students 66.61 during the same period.

Out of 31 schools, there was one school with English medium run by the Central Government and another with Gujarati medium managed by the State Government. Over and above there was also a Hindi medium school at Chand Kheda, managed by a private trust.

The number of students studying in English medium school was 662 whereas in Hindi medium school was 222.

The number of students who appeared and passed the Secondary School Certificate Examination during the period 1971-73 is shown below:

| Year | Appeared | | Passed | | Percentage of result | |
|------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | March | October | March | October | March | October |
| 1971 | 931 | 251 | 532 | 78 | 57.14 | 31.08 |
| 1972 | 1,103 | 264 | 592 | 111 | 53.67 | 42.05 |
| 1973 | 1,135 | 306 | 593 | 148 | 52.25 | 48.37 |

Secondary education has been made free from the year 1972 onwards throughout the State.

POST BASIC SCHOOL

Agriculture Bias

Smt. Manekba Krushi Vidyalaya, Adalaj, was established in the year 1959. The institution is managed by the Vasumati Charity Trust, C. N. Vidyavihar, Ahmadabad. It gives training in agriculture as a special subject along with general subjects. There is a scheme of 'Earn and learning' for the students in this institution. During the holidays and vacation period the students of this institution are given some work either relating to Agriculture or other miscellaneous work in lieu of which they are paid remuneration. The number of students on its roll during the year 1973-74 was 356 (256 boys and 90 girls).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education in the modern sense had its beginning in the State after 1854. There were isolated gymnasias conducted by individuals interested in physical education. Freedom Movement created enthusiasm among the young men to do something for the country, and physical education was one of the most important activities for them. At present, physical education is a curricular subject in general but a compulsory subject at the primary level because one period per day is allotted to physical education in the State. From 1974, physical education has been introduced as a voluntary subject in the S. S. C. Examination. The teacher to be qualified in physical education is required to be either "C. P. Ed. (under graduate) or a D. P. Ed. (graduate)". The details of these activities and schemes sponsored in the district are described below:

The district sports were organised in November every year by the District Sports Committee under the presidentship of the Collector and the District Education Officer as Secretary. After 1973, this pattern is discontinued and sports competitions are now held twice every year as autumn and winter meet under the auspices of the All India Schools Games Federation and under the control of the District Sports Councils, which is a statutory body constituted by the Government of Gujarat. Its Chairman is the District Education Officer and Secretary is a Government servant under the control of the Director of Youth and Cultural Activities, Gujarat.

Sports competitions are held twice (the autumn meet and the winter meet) every year at the district and at the National level for secondary schools only. Generally sports competitions are held at the Taluka level in September-October, in November-December at the district level and at the State level they are held in January. The competitions are held for three categories of participants (1) Age-group 1-15 years, (2) Age-Group 15-18 years and (3) Open for all.

In the year 1973-74, 450 students participated at district level sports competitions, out of whom, 4 were selected for the National level sports competition.

The National Physical Efficiency Drive.

The Union and the State Government as well as the voluntary sports and other physical educational institutions are adopting various measures to make our people conscious about physical fitness. The Scheme of National Physical Efficiency Drive has been implemented by the Government of India from 1959. It is implemented in this district from 1971. The purpose of this drive is to create a consciousness and enthusiasm amongst the young people of the country for physical fitness and to stimulate their interest for physical welfare which will help them to a better and more healthy living. The Drive is also expressed to assess factors such as strength, speed, ability and endurance which go to make a person physically efficient.

The test for the N. P. E. D. are conducted separately for men and women every year in the month of September. They are also further classified for various age-groups as under.

Men

junior Group I below 18 years.

Senior Group II 18 to 34 years.

Senior Group III 35 to 44 years.

Senior Group IV 45 years and above.

Women

Junior Group I Below 16 years.

Senior Group II 16 to 30 years.

Senior Group III 31 years and above.

Each item of the test has three standards laid down from moderately easy to fairly difficult. The highest standard is the "Three-Star" standard, the next "Two-Star" and the easiest "One-Star". The winning and wearing of these badges is considered as a mark of distinction in physical fitness and efficiency. In addition to the badges, each successful competitor is awarded a certificate indicating his/her level of achievement.

In 1974-75, out of 1,228 participants, 962 were awarded different stars as under.

*Junior Group**Succeeded*

| | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| One Star. | 445 | 243 |
| Two Star. | 47 | 43 |
| Three Star. | 3 | 2 |

*Senior Group**Men* *Women*

| | | |
|-------------|----|----|
| One Star. | 61 | 58 |
| Two Star. | 12 | 36 |
| Three Star. | 5 | 7 |

College for Physical Education

Smt. Manekba Vyayam Vidyalaya, College for Physical Education Adalaj : This is the first college for training women in physical education in the State. It was established in 1964. In the initial stages, it started only C. P. Ed. course. There were only 19 women on its roll in 1964. Since 1972, the D. P. Ed. course was also started for the graduate women. Hostel facility is provided for the trainees. The institution also gives training in Mountaineering and girl-guide. During the year 1973-74, there were 50 students on the roll of the institution.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Before the formation of the Gandhinagar district, there was not a single institution for higher education in the district and the students of this district used to join colleges situated at Ahmadabad, Kalol, Mansa, Pilvai, etc. After the formation of the Gandhinagar district, Government started two colleges—one for Arts and Commerce and another for Science students. The details of these colleges are as under.

(1) *Government Arts and Commerce College, Gandhinagar*

This college was established in the year 1970 by the Government of Gujarat. In the Arts section, the college conducts classes upto the B. A. degree and in Commerce upto the B. Com. degree. The college is housed in its own building and provides hostel facilities to the students. In the year 1970-71, there were 130 students (52 boys and 78 girls) in the Arts section and 168 (156 boys and 12 girls) in the Commerce section. In the year 1974-75, the number of students rose to 483 (235 boys and 248 girls) in the Arts section and 555 students (472 boys and 83 girls) in the Commerce section. The total strength of teaching staff was 50. This is the only college in the Gujarat University offering Economics of Cotton as a subject in the Commerce section. The college library has about 10,000 books.

(2) *Government Science College, Gandhinagar*

This college was established by the Government of Gujarat in the year 1970. It conducts classes upto the B. Sc. courses. The college is housed in its own building. It also provides hostel facilities for 30 students. In the year 1970-71, there were 136 students (117 boys and 19 girls) on its roll. It rose to 167 (139 boys and 28 girls) in the year 1973-74. The total strength of teaching staff was 27.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

There is no Government institution for technical education in the district imparting degree or diploma courses. However one private institution, viz., Smt. Manekba Vinayvihar, which is recognised by Government, conducts certificates courses for wiremen. Besides this private institution, Gandhinagar Samaj Kalyan Sangh imparts training in tailoring and cutting. This institution prepares students for certificate courses.

SOCIAL EDUCATION

Social education is a movement for preparing responsible citizens, who can participate with understanding in the activities around them and develop their latent faculties. In order to achieve these wider objectives, the programme of social and educational needs to be oriented to local requirements and conditions as well as to the cultural level of the particular locality covered. Efforts are made to promote adult education in the district. The progress achieved so far is as under.

| Sl. No. | Year | | No. of Social education classes |
|------------|---------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| 1. | 1947-48 | .. | .. |
| 2. | 1951-52 | .. | .. |
| 3. | 1956-57 | .. | .. |
| 4. | 1961-62 | .. | .. |
| 5. | 1971-72 | .. | .. |
| 6. | 1973-74 | .. | .. |

Source : Administrative Officer, Gandhinagar.

After the formation of this district little progress seems to have been made in the district. It is desired that greater amount of financial aid be paid to the teachers for the same so as to encourage them to work with missionary spirit.

EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Gandhinagar district being backward, both economically and socially and as it is predominantly inhabited by Thakardas, Rajputs, and other backward classes, the education in general and secondary education in particular did not make much headway in the district before 1947. Only four schools were started by private efforts with some aid from the Government before Independence. There was no Government secondary school in this area. When the Gandhinagar district was carved out, both the private schools and Government schools in Gandhinagar town were opened. Looking at the above review, it is clear that secondary education in the district was initiated and developed by private efforts only. The general policy of the Government of Gujarat also is that secondary education should be conducted by private agencies with financial aid from the Government. Some of the leading educational societies in the district are described below:

Shrimati Manekba Vinay Vihar, Adalaj

This institution was started at Adalaj by the Vasumati Charity Trust, Ahmadabad in 1959 with the establishment of an Agriculture School. In the initial stages, there were 74 students in Stds. VIII and IX. A Gaushala is also attached with this institution. In 1960, a primary teachers training college was started for the women teachers. Thereafter one pre-primary teachers training institution and one Balmandir were started. As there was

no separate institution for girls for physical education in the district, Smt. Manekba Vyayam Vidyabhavan for women was started for C.P. Ed. course in 1964 and D.P. Ed. course was started for graduate women in 1972. There is also provision of hostel facilities for the students of these institutions.

In the year 1974-75, the number of students in these institutions was as under.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Institution 2 | No. of students | | |
|------------|---|-----------------|------------|------------|
| | | Boys 3 | Girls 4 | Total 5 |
| 1. | Smt. Manekba Krushi Vidyalaya, Adalaj. (73-74) | 267 | 93 | 360 |
| 2. | Smt. Manekba Stree Adhyapan Mandir, (women). | .. | 75 | 75 |
| 3. | Smt. Manekba Purva-Prathmik Adhyapan Mandir (women). | .. | 46 | 46 |
| 4. | Smt. Manekba Vyayam Vidyabhavan (women). | .. | 50 | 50 |
| 5. | Smt. Manekba Balmandir | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |

Over and above this, the management conducts a Health Centre, a Shikshan Vistaran Seva Kendra (Education Extension Services Centre) and a Training Centre for Technical Education.

Kasturba Gandhi Rashtriya Smarak Trust, Koba

This trust is one of the constituents of the trust which was established in the year 1945 at the National level in the memory of Pujya Kasturba for the welfare and uplift of the village women and children. Mahatma Gandhiji was its first President. The object of the trust is to establish a hospital, a maternity home, a children welfare centre, a health centre, training institutions, cottage industries, etc., in the villages of the country. For this purpose, Smt. Sarla Devi Sarabhai started a training class at Vaghajipura near Ahmadabad. It was shifted to Juna Koba in 1948. It is now housed in a newly constructed building on the banks of the Sabarmati river. In the year 1975, the trust managed the following institutions: --

1. Primary Teachers Training College for women was established in 1966. It had 173 women on its roll in the year 1975.
2. Pre-primary institution established in the year 1955 had 700 children in 1974-75.

Over and above this, it runs an Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, a Training Centre, a Child Welfare Centre, a Health Centre, a Condensed Course for S.S.C.E., for women, for village welfare services, etc.

CULTURE

The district of Gandhinagar is almost entirely rural. It was carved out in 1964 from Ahmadabad and Mahesana districts. Its culture has therefore a good degree of blending of these two districts. Mahesana district formed a part of former Baroda State, which was one of the most progressive States in India. In a good number of villages transferred from Mahesana to Gandhinagar district, there was a public library in every village of the State. Some villages of the district are culturally well advanced. They are Randheja, Rupal, Sardhav, Unava and Pethapur. In these villages, even before Independence, there were primary schools. Some Brahmins of Rupal and Unava Balva were experts in oriental learning and studied Sanskrit literature, *Karma Kand*, Ayurveda etc.

With the advent of Independence, there is expansion of education among all the classes of society, including the Scheduled Castes. Gandhinagar the capital has become a centre of cultural activities.

Literature

Bhakta Gopaldas, a known Vaishnav poet, wrote "Vallabhakhyan" which is very popular among the followers of Pushti Sampradaya. The commentaries of this Akhyan in Vrij Bhasha and in Sanskrit are also written for further elucidation. A manuscript copy of "Gosaiji-ni-Pansashi" written by Gopaldas is preserved in the house of Pandit Shri Natwarlal Manishankar Dave of Rupal.

Pandit Shri Natwarlal Manishankar Dave, *Vedabhushan* of Rupal (b. 1912), is a well-known *Bhagwat-kathakar* and *Vyakhyanakar*. He has published four parts of 'Kirtan-sangrah'. He is co-writer of 'Shri Pancharatna Vyakhyanamala', with Shri Sitaram Sharma, a known *kirtanakar*. He has also published Gujaratipadyanuvad of 'Shri Krishnashraya' and of Shri Devyaparadh-kshamapan stotra.

Shri Rasiklal Chhotalal Parikh (b. 1897) of Pethapur is a well-known scholar, a research worker and a writer. At present he is working as the honorary post-graduate teacher in B. J. Institute of Learning and Research at Ahmadabad for guiding students reading for the M.A. and Ph.D., degrees in Sanskrit and Indian Culture. He is also working as a General Editor

of 'Political and Cultural' History of Gujarat to be published in nine volumes. The scheme is sponsored by the Government of Gujarat and executed by B. J. Institute and the Gujarat Vidya Sabha. In 1960, he was awarded Sahitya Academy Prize for his Gujarati play "Sharvilaka". He has also written plays, poems, short stories, etc.

His important published works are as follows:

Research Work—*Kavyanusasana of Hemchandra* Vo. I & II., 'Tattvopalavasimha of Jayar-Shri Bhatt', 'Kavyaprakasha Khandan' of *Sinhdicandra*, 'Kavyaprakasha of Mammata' with 'Sanket' (*Kavyadaesha*) in two parts, Sanskrit text and English introduction, 'Nrtvaratnakosh' of the king Kumbha Rana, and 'Some Aspects of the Study of Classical Sanskrit Literature'.

Works in Gujarati—*Shri Mammatacharyakruti Kavyaprakshan*; Gujarati translation; Part 1. (with Prof. R.V. Pathak), 'Vaidic Pathayali' 'Rupiyanan Zad' (a drama), 'Pahelo Kalal' (translation of Tolstoy's First Distiller), 'Jivanana Vuheno' (short stories), 'Premanun Mulya' (Radio play), 'Smriti' (poems), 'Sharvilaka' (drama), 'Gujarat-ni Rajadhanio', 'Anandmimansa' (lectures), 'Parishad-ni-Abhivyakti' (lecture), 'Purovachan Ane Vivechan' 'Itihas Paddhati Ane Swaroop', 'Akash-bhasit' (Radio talks).

Shri Jethalal Narayan Trivedi B. A., (b. 1908), Sahitya Martand, belongs to Randheja. He has started several activities in Randheja, some of which are as under: (1) Sahitya Kala Samsad, (2) 'Prakash Patrika,' (3) 'Rupena' non-periodical and (4) Gurjar Grantha-Bhavan, a small publishing house.

Shri Trivedi in his creative work has touched wide range of literary forms, viz., novels, short-stories, poems, biography research works, etc. He has written about 42 books of which following are noteworthy 'Pankhadi', 'Mandarmala' (poems), 'Yugapurush Patanjali', 'Apno Ahaar', 'Sant Tulsidas', etc.

Shri Trivedi's following books on research and editing of Medieval literature have earned reputation among the Scholars : (I) Bhalan-nan-Panda, (II) Prachin Kavya Manjari, and (III) Narsimha Mehta: Vyaktitva-Kartutva. The last book has provided upto-date facts connected with the life of Narsimha Mehta.

Shri Ganpatram Maganlal Joshi (b. 1909-d. 1968) was a well-known writer of Randheja. He wrote short stories, poems, and dramas which appeared in various Gujarati magazines, viz., 'Sahitya' 'Sharda', 'Kaumudi' 'Chitrapat', 'Navachetan', etc. He was awarded gold medal for writing a

critical article 'Gujarati Rangabhumi' in 'Chitrapat'. His fondness for folk-stories of North Gujarat and research work on 'Bhavaino Vesh' (folk drama) are note-worthy. He had also written comic dialogues, which were produced by His Masters voice, and other companies.

Dr. Ranjitbhai Mohanlal Patel (Anami) M.A., B.T., Ph.D., (b. 1918), a native of Dabhol, was a Reader and head of the Gujarati Department of Faculty of Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara. He is a well-known poet, story-writer, research scholar and a critic. *His books are:* (Poems)- 'Kavya Samhita', 'Chakravak', 'Sneh-Shatak', 'Saras', 'Paramal', (short-stories)-Bhaneli Bhikh ane Bijji Vato', 'Triveni'. (Editation)-'Mani-Bal-Shatabdi Granth', Malaychandrakriti' 'Simhasan Batrishi', 'Shamal', Tagor-nu Jivan-Kavan'. (Essays)-'Sah-Sikshan', 'Dant-ni Sambhal', 'Gujaratio-ni Sharir Sampati', 'Apanu Rashtra-Geet'. (Criticism)-Arvachin Gujarati Sahitya Swaroopono Vikas' (with Dr. Ramchandra Pandya).

Shri Kanaiyalal Ganpatram Joshi (b. 1929 A. D.) of Randheja has written about 25 books, of which 15 are novels and 3 are collections of stories. He was awarded a prize by the Central Government for his book "Nadanvan". He worked as a member of the Loksahitya Samiti of Gujarat State and edited volumes III and IV of 'Loksahitya-Mala'.

Shri Bansidhar Chhaganlal Shukla of Rupal is a writer and a known cartoonist. He is a commercial artist and his cartoons appear in various dailies, weekly newspapers and monthly magazines. 'Harihar', 'Chitragupta' 'Rahu', 'Franc White', etc., are his nick names.

Dr. Pinakin Natwarlal Dave M.A., LL.B., Ph.D., (b. 1935) belongs to Rupal. Three novels written by him have won prizes from Government of Gujarat and they have also been translated into Hindi language. He also worked as co-editor for sometime of 'Anand' a monthly magazine. His known works are 'Vishyajit', 'Anubandha', 'Vivari', 'Chhaya', 'Adhar' (novels), 'Trupti' (short stories), etc.

Shri Radheshyam Sitaram Sharma B.A. (hons.) (b. 1936), son of the famous *kirtankar* Shri Sitaram Sharma of Rupal. He is at present, working as the editor of "Dharma Sandesh" published by the Sandesh Prakashan. He is a poet, novelist and a well-known critic. He was awarded prizes by the Government of Gujarat for his works, viz., 'Fero' (novel), 'Vachana' (collection of literary criticism), and 'Bicharan' (collection of stories). His other books are 'Ans Ane Chandarnu' (poems), 'Negatives of Eternity' (English poems), 'Navi Varta' (a representative collection of modern Gujarati short stories), etc. He is also co-editor of the following books (I) 'Dalal-ni pratinidhi Vartao', (II) 'Gujarati Navalkatha', (III) 'Dhumketu-ni Bhav-Shrusti', and (IV) 'Natak Vishe Dalal'.

Poets, Writers etc., Settled at Gandhinagar Recently

Principal Hasitbhai Hariray Buch M.A., (1921) is a well-known poet, scholar and a novelist. He passed B.A. with credit and became fellow at Baroda Arts College (1942-43). He passed his M.A. in the first class and was awarded 'K. H. Dhruv gold medal'. He worked as Professor of Gujarati and as Principal in Government Colleges at Visnagar, Ahmadabad and Rajkot. At present he is the Director of Languages, Gujarat State at Gandhinagar. He is conducting one literary centre known as 'Mujlas' at Gandhinagar. At Vadodara he founded Gujarati Sahitya Mandir. At Visnagar, he was the founder of 'Kavi-Sabha'. He is a member of the central committee of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad. He has also written dramas, short stories and biography.

His Books—‘*Brahm Atithi*’, ‘*Roopnan Amee*’, ‘*Dhammapada*’ (Translation), ‘*Sannidhya*’ ‘*Agia Zabookia*’ (for children), ‘*Gandhi Dhvani*’ ‘*Niranjan*’ (Poetry). ‘*Dariatram*—A study, Review:—*Gujarati Literature of 1961*, ‘*Anvay*’ (literary criticism). ‘*Chal Achal*’, ‘*Abhne Chheda*’, ‘*Meghna*’ (novels), ‘*Alamban*’ (short stories). Plays: ‘*Subhasya Shighram*’, ‘*Soor Mangal*’, ‘*Harikiran*’ (with Smt. Jyotsna Buch), ‘*Siddharaj*’ (for children.).

Architecture and Sculpture

At a distance of one kilometre from village Vasan, there is a splendid Shiv-temple, known as Vaijnath Mahadev. The huge temple has seven stories, with a tall summit. The Shiv-Ling is of 'Yoni-ling' type. There are 24 Shiv-lings in the Pradakshina path of the temple. Vasan seems to be an ancient place, because bricks and silver coins of Maitrak period were obtained from this village.

There is a Trimukhi Vav (step-well) at Adalaj which was built during the time of Mahomad Beghada. The carving on the stone pillars and in the 'gavaksha' is both skillful and attractive. According to Dr. Harilal Gaudani, an image of goddess Vageshwari, having a height of four feet six inches, is lying in the Thakorwas of Adalaj. He is of the opinion that this image originally belonged to the Toran of Modheswari Mata of Modhera. Step-wells having six 'Foots' (Majala) and 'Dwi-mukh' are known as 'Bhadra'.

There is a beautiful 'Bhadra-vav', built during the 15th century at Valad. In the main 'Chauk' of village Unvarsad, there is a building full of wood-carving. Similarly in the front part of a house situated in Suthar-vas of this village, there is an image of goddess 'Mahishasur-mardini', carved skillfully from wood. In front part of a house, near Chhipa Chakla at Randheja, there are beautifully carved wooden images of 'Dhabhudis' (girls).

Varadayini Mata temple of village Rupal seems to have been built, after the 16th century of V. Samvat. During the excavation in front of this temple, a beautiful 'shilp' of 'Shiv-Vivah' belonging to the 8th century has been discovered. A Jain temple of Pethapur with 52 shrines is also famous. It is said that an old image of Tirthankar, which originally belonged to Jalore temple, is now at Pethapur.

Painting—Few but remarkable pictures are available in some temples of the district. Vasan and Adalaj are the places of such paintings.

There are some coloured pictures, drawn on the ceiling of the '*sabha-mandap*' dome of Shri Vaijnath Mahadev at Vasan. In the centre of the ceiling, there is a colourful circle in which a lotus with plants and leaves around it, is drawn. Below this circle, there is another circular series of pictures, which exhibit 'Rasa-lila' of *gopis* and Shri Krishna. Below it there is a circular row of persons, painted, carrying flags with them. At intervals, some decorative plants are also painted.

The last circular row of the pictures is interrupted by 'gokhs'. Some nice pictures are found here. A picture of a male and a female churning curd is very articulate. The Churn (pot) is blue in colour and the male and female figures are painted in mixed faint-red and yellow colours. There are also some pictures depicting scenes of village life, birds, etc. The pictures on the ceiling of the main dome are generally black in colour.

According to Dr. Gaudani, these ceiling-pictures might have been drawn some 150 years ago i.e., during the first quarter of the 19th century.

There is a temple of Shri Nilkanth Mahadev near Adalaj. The ceiling of the *sabha-mandap* of this temple is also painted with coloured pictures. They are attractive.

Cultural and Literary Institutions, etc.

Various literary institutions and cultural associations, etc., play an important role in social and cultural life of the people. They also encourage and enrich social values of the people.

Sahitya-Kala Samsad: Randheja Shri Jethalal Narayan Trivedi, founded, this Samsad in 1963. The Sahitya Kala Samsad holds regular meetings for discussing topics of general interest for promoting literary activities, connected with literature and poetry. It also invites known writers, journalists, etc., for discussion and talk.

With a view to producing new writers and encouraging them for creative work, Shri Trivedi started a monthly 'Prakasha'. Young and budding writers are contributing to this monthly.

Gurjar Grantha Bhavan, Randheja—This publishing house is established to supplement the work of the Sahitya Kala Samsad. The Bhavan has published the following literary works: (1) Bhalan-nan-Pad, (2) Prachin Kavya Manjari, and (3) Narsimha Mehta: Vyaktitva-Kartrutva.

'Mijlas'—*Gandhinagar*—A literary study circle known as 'Mijlas' was founded by Shri Hasitbhai H. Buch, in 1972. The aim and object of 'Mijlas' is to organise such literary programmes and activities as would strengthen and enkindle the creative and critical urge in growing talents in Gandhinagar.

It invites leading Gujarati poets, writers, critics, scholars, etc., for talks on leading literary works.

Shivranjani—'Shivranjani' a cultural organisation of Gandhinagar was established in June, 1972. It aims at development and propagation of Music and fine Arts through training and organising programmes, etc. It arranges concerts to cultivate the listener's taste towards music. It also aims at encouraging budding young artists. This institution often arranges functions, talks and discussions, inviting artists of repute for the same.

Cultural and Literary Periodicals

Being nearer to Ahmadabad and being backward socially and economically this area had not produced a good journal of standing till recently. A monthly magazine '*gram-seva*' edited by Shri Somalal Chhaganlal Mehta of Unava is regularly published from A.D. 1936. '*Nagar Bandhu*' (Pakshik) edited by Shri Somalal Mehta is also published from Unava. He had also published "*Nagarmahila*" for a short period. Shri Gaurishanker Jyastharam Dave (Gautami) of Rupal had edited a monthly magazine "*Audichya Prakasha*" for some years. He was also co-editor of "*Bhagwat Dharma-prakasha*" a monthly published from Kalol (Mahesana District). Shri Jethalal Trivedi also edited, non-periodical *patrika* known as 'Prakasha' on behalf of 'Sahitya Kala Samsad' of Randheja.

LIBRARIES

Because of extensive library movement in the former Vadodara State, the villages of this district which were under it had good facility of libraries. Maharaja Sayaji Rao III of Baroda had aimed at providing every village with a library or reading room at least. The villages of this district which

were in Ahmadabad district also had comparatively better educational facilities. The villages of this district therefore had a good network of libraries before the formation of the district in 1964. The first library in the district was established in the year 1893 at Kundasan. Another library was established at Sardhav in 1907. Thereafter, the library movement gathered momentum.

In the year 1974, there were 39 libraries in the district, of which 37 were village libraries and one was district library (Government). There is one Secretariat library also. The Government also encourages the library movement by giving liberal grant under the rules framed for the purpose. For the purpose of financial aid, the libraries are classified according to the population, *viz.*, village, town, city or the district. The village libraries are further classified as Class I libraries for villages having 1,000 to 5,000 population and Class II for villages below 1,000 population. The Class I village libraries are given Rs. 500 as grant-in-aid while the Class II are given Rs. 250 per annum.

The following statement shows details about the important libraries in the district.



STATEMENT XV.4

A Statement Showing the Leading Libraries in the District, 1973-74

| Sl. No. | Location | Name of the Library | Year of establish- ment | Whether housed in its own or rental building | Classification of books in different languages in the year 1973-74 | | | | Total No. of books | Manage- ment Committee | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| | | | | | Gujarati | Hindi | English | Marathi | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1. Kundasran | Sarvajanik Library/ PustakKalya | 1893 | Own | 1,399 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,399 | Managing Committee | |
| 2. Sardhav | -do- | 1907 | Own | 3,657 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,657 | " | |
| 3. Isanpur Moti | " | 1911 | Own | 1,290 | 100 | 5 | .. | .. | 1,305 | " | |
| 4. Shertha | " | 1911 | Own | 3,041 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,041 | " | |
| 5. Titoda | " | 1911 | Own | 1,116 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,116 | " | |
| 6. Magodi | " | 1911 | Own | 1,749 | 5 | 2 | .. | .. | 12 | 1,768 | " |
| 7. Rupal | " | 1911 | Own | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Sanskrit) | 1,122 | " |
| 8. Piplaj | " | 1918-19 | Own | 1,025 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,025 | " |
| 9. Adaraj Moti | " | 1932-33 | Own | 740 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 740 | " |
| 10. Prantijia | " | 1932 | Rental | 1,156 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,156 | " |
| 11. Chiloda | " | 1933 | Rental | 847 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 847 | " |
| 12. Shetholi Moti | " | 1935 | Rental | 801 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 801 | " |
| 13. Galudan | " | 1935-36 | Rental | 901 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 901 | " |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------------|---------|--------|-------------|-------|-----|---|--------|------------|
| 14. | Dhanap | " | 1938 | Rental | 762 | " | " | " | 762 | " |
| 15. | Vadodara | " | 1944 | " | Guj. & Eng. | " | " | " | 1,584 | " |
| 16. | Pindharada | " | 1945-46 | Rental | 665 | " | 1 | " | 666 | " |
| 17. | Dashela | " | 1946 | Rental | 601 | " | " | " | 601 | " |
| 18. | Sargasan | " | 1956 | Own | 619 | " | " | " | 619 | " |
| 19. | Gandhinagar | Central Library | 1960 | Own | " | " | " | " | 16,870 | Government |
| 20. | Gandhinagar | Sarvajanik Library | 1970 | Govt. | 9,365 | 1,689 | 307 | " | 11,361 | " |

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सत्यमेव जयते

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES IN EARLY TIMES

The climate of the district is generally dry and healthy but hot in summer when the temperature rises to 48°C at the maximum. Malaria, respiratory diseases, diarrhoea, bronchitis, and trachoma are commonly prevalent diseases, which were more severe in the past.

During the past, deaths from fevers predominated over those from other causes. As the agency recording deaths was untrained and consisted of clerks and ignorant *patels* or head-men, the causes of deaths registered by them were unreliable. This was mainly due to the difficulty of diagnosing all but a few well-defined causes such as cholera and smallpox. As a result, several complaints were classed indiscriminately under the head 'fever'.

The position has since changed with the progress in medical science. Complicated symptoms of diseases are now clearly and quickly diagnosed. As a result, the percentage of deaths reported under the broad category of fevers has declined.

As regards medical facilities, during the pre-Independence days, dispensaries were opened at Pethapur and Unava, in the year 1907. The dispensary at Sardhav was established in the year 1935-36.

VITAL STATISTICS

सन्यमेव जयते

Compared to the past, medical facilities have now increased on a large scale. As a result, the epidemics which used to take a heavy toll of human lives in the past are now under control. This has resulted in gradual and steady decline in the death rates. The birth rate was as high as 28.9 in the district in the year 1968, but came down to 21.5 in 1972. Due to intensive family planning programme, the birth rate has since fallen down gradually.

As regards the death rate, it was as high as 10.4 in the year 1968 but came down to 7.4 in 1972, thanks to the increasing medical facilities made available in recent years. Similarly, there is a notable improvement in the infant mortality rates, especially during the last three years.

The following statement gives the birth and death rates alongwith the infant mortality rates between 1968 and 1972.

STATEMENT XVI.1

Birth and Death Rates

| Year | Live births | Deaths | Infant deaths | Live birth rate per thousand | Death rate per thousand | Natural increase in population | Infant death rate per 1000 live birth |
|------|-------------|--------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1968 | .. | 4,335 | 1,564 | 192 | 28.9 | 10.4 | 18.5 |
| 1969 | .. | 3,700 | 1,785 | 206 | 24.4 | 11.8 | 12.6 |
| 1970 | .. | 3,896 | 1,620 | 235 | 25.4 | 10.6 | 14.8 |
| 1971 | .. | 4,086 | 1,445 | 190 | 26.4 | 9.4 | 17.0 |
| 1972 | .. | 4,485 | 1,549 | 154 | 21.5 | 7.4 | 14.1 |

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

COMMON DISEASES

Several deaths occurred in the past due to severity of epidemics like smallpox, malaria, etc. in the absence of integrated public health activities. Since Independence, the Government has adopted several measures for the control and eradication of these epidemics by vaccination and re-vaccination, surveillance operations, collection of blood smears and survey of affected and threatened areas and prompt notification of smallpox, cholera, and malaria cases. As a result, the severity of these diseases has remained under control.

सत्यमेव जयते

The following statement gives figures of deaths due to several diseases during the last five years (1968-72).

STATEMENT XVI.2

Causes of death

| Sl. No. | Cause of death | Year | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Cholera | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 2. | Fever | .. | 707 | 854 | 804 | 650 |
| 3. | Dysentery and Diarrhoea | .. | 12 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 4. | Respiratory System | .. | 24 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 5. | All other causes | .. | 821 | 932 | 802 | 773 |
| | Total | .. | 1,564 | 1,795 | 1,620 | 1,445 |
| | | | | | | 1,546 |

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

The statement shows a notable decline in case of fevers, smallpox, dysentery, etc.

THE MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAMME

Malaria generally makes its appearance in the rainy season. Malaria eradication measures were undertaken in the areas comprising this district from 1958-59 when the control programme was switched over to eradication programme as a joint venture of the Central and State Governments.

As a part of this programme, the indoor residual insecticidal spray is carried out in all human and cattle dwellings twice a year during the transmission season of malaria. Surveillance operations are carried out to detect malaria cases. Blood smears of suspected cases are carried out and radical treatment is given to cases showing malaria parasites in blood. To prevent the disease anti-epidemic measures are taken. This district falls under the National Malaria Eradication Programme Unit of Ahmadabad.

The State malaria organisation works under the Directorate of Health and Medical Services. The Deputy Director of Public Health, Malaria and Filaria (Health section) is in the overall charge of this work.

The number of malaria cases detected in this district during the last five years is shown in the following statement:

| Year | | | | Malaria cases detected |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|------------------------|
| 1970 | .. | .. | .. | 103 |
| 1971 | .. | .. | .. | 861 |
| 1972 | .. | .. | .. | 2,439 |
| 1973 | .. | .. | .. | 2,664 |
| 1974 (upto 30-11-74) | .. | .. | .. | 1,089 |

Source :
Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

None of these cases had proved fatal. However, the statement speaks of the rapid spread of the malaria in the district during the last five years which is a cause of concern to all.

SMALLPOX ERADICATION PROGRAMME

The smallpox eradication programme was introduced in the area of Gandhinagar district in the year 1972. The achievement in the programme has remained encouraging. The area is free from the disease right from the year 1971.

From 1970, containment measures to control smallpox infection were undertaken promptly. Detection of smallpox cases was carried out effectively in 1970-71. As a result no case remained undetected. Neo-natal vaccination in the district was enforced. Every effort was made to raise the immunity level as high as possible by primary and re-vaccinations. Since the beginning of the year 1971, there is no case of smallpox in the district.

The strength of the staff in the district at present consists of 1 para-Medical Assistant, district mobile squad consisting of 6 vaccinators for urban areas, 6 vaccinators for rural areas and 2 vaccination supervisors.

The following statement gives the figures of smallpox primary vaccination and re-vaccination between 1969 and 1973.

| Year | | | Primary vaccinations | Re-vaccinations |
|------|----|----|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1969 | .. | .. | 6,354 | 40,601 |
| 1970 | .. | .. | 9,165 | 8,297 |
| 1971 | .. | .. | 10,017 | 17,688 |
| 1972 | .. | .. | 10,051 | 7,159 |
| 1973 | .. | .. | 8,979 | 9,806 |

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmedabad.

The epidemic of smallpox was reported in the district in 1969 and 1970, when 6 and 11 cases respectively were reported. Of these, only one case proved fatal in the year 1969.

Tuberculosis

The Government has instituted a district T.B. Control Programme which makes it possible to detect and treat T.B. patients and carry out preventive measures in the form of B. C. G. vaccination. The B. C. G. vaccination programme was started in the areas comprising this district in the year 1965-66. The B.C.G. vaccination team is attached to the district T. B. centre established in 1974. This team has given more than 31,000 B. C. G. vaccinations in rural areas of the district between March 1974 and October 1974. More than 3,130 persons were treated during the year 1974, and 135 positive cases were detected. Moreover 360 neo-natal and 463 direct B. C. G. vaccinations were given at the centre from January 1974 to October 1974.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The following is the list of the Government and charitable hospitals and dispensaries in the district.

1. The Cottage Hospital, Gandhinagar
2. The Government Dispensary, Pethapur
3. Sheth N.N. Hospital and S.G. Maternity Home, Randheja
4. The Public Dispensary, Sardhav
5. The Government Dispensary and Maternity Home, Unava
6. The Government Dispensary, Prantiya.
7. The Government Dispensary, Chhala

The Cottage Hospital, Gandhinagar

The cottage hospital was established at Gandhinagar in the year 1969. It was shifted to a new spacious building in 1973. It is a fully-equipped Government hospital and treats patients coming from all over the district. It is equipped with an x-ray department, a pathological laboratory, an operation theatre, a dental unit and a T.B. clinic. The hospital has 50 beds in its indoor department.

All types of major and minor diseases are treated at the hospital. The medical staff consists of four medical officers (Class I), 15 medical officers (Class II) and 25 staff nurses. Specialists in diseases of eye, nose, throat, and heart, etc., from Ahmadabad visit this hospital on fixed days.

The following statement shows the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the hospital during the years 1972 to 1974.

| Year | | | Indoor patients | Outdoor patients |
|------|----|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 1972 | .. | .. | 2,721 | 52,772 |
| 1973 | .. | .. | 3,151 | 54,414 |
| 1974 | .. | .. | 8,761 | 58,763 |

The hospital incurred an expenditure of Rs. 10,74,550 during the year 1973-74.

A new building for the hospital with 100 beds is under construction at present and will be available for use within a short period.

The Government Dispensary, Pethapur

The dispensary was established in the year 1907 during the Pethapur State regime for the benefit of the people residing in the surrounding villages. It was started with a donation of Rs. 15,000 from Shri Amichand Bhavsar, a resident of Pethapur. Other expenses were borne by the State. In the initial stages, there was no regular indoor patient department. In 1965, the maternity home with six beds was started.

The dispensary provides facilities for triple vaccination, smallpox vaccination, cholera vaccination, etc. The staff workers of this dispensary extend co-operation in implementing Malaria Eradication Programme, T. B. Control Programme, and also for Family Planning Programme. The hospital has a total medical staff of 3 including 1 nurse and 1 doctor.

The dispensary treats about 80 patients in its maternity department and 13,000 patients in its general outdoor department every year.

Sheth N.N. Hospital and S.G. Maternity Home, Randheja

The hospital was established in the year 1967 at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs and was named after Sheth Nathalal Nagardas, the chief donor. In the initial stages, it had 25 beds. At present, the number has increased to 30. The hospital has separate surgical ward, an x-ray department, eye department, dental department, family planning ward, paediatric department, etc. Honorary specialists including an eye surgeon, a gynaecologist and a dentist visit the hospital on fixed days. All types of diseases are treated in the hospital. The hospital has a total medical staff of 9, including 4 nurses.

The following statement shows the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated in the hospital during the last five years.

| Year | | | | Indoor patients | Outdoor patients |
|---------|----|----|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 1969-70 | .. | .. | .. | 567 | 26,500 |
| 1970-71 | .. | .. | .. | 685 | 27,300 |
| 1971-72 | .. | .. | .. | 789 | 24,800 |
| 1972-73 | .. | .. | .. | 798 | 35,700 |
| 1973-74 | .. | .. | .. | 1,044 | 36,718 |

The Public Dispensary, Sardhav

The Sardhav dispensary was started in the year 1935-36, as “Shrimant Sir Sayajirao Maharaja Hirak Mahotsava Sarvajanik Dispensary”, from the donation received from the local people. It treats on an average about 10,000 patients every year.

The Revabai General Hospital, Sardhav

The Revabai General Hospital was established in the year 1965, at a cost of Rs. 2.5 lakhs. It has 50 beds at present and a separate maternity ward, a surgical ward and a laboratory. A Dental Surgeon also visits the hospital once a week. The hospital with a total medical staff of 6 including two doctors and two nurses treats on an average 14,000 patients yearly. It incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1.40 lakhs during 1974-75.

The Government Dispensary and Maternity Home, Unava

The public dispensary was established at Unava in the year 1907. At present there are 3 beds in the maternity home.

The following statement shows the number of indoor and outdoor patients treated at the dispensary during the last five years.

| Year | | | Indoor patients | Outdoor patients |
|------|----|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 1970 | .. | .. | 12 | 11,876 |
| 1971 | .. | .. | 9 | 11,334 |
| 1972 | .. | .. | 19 | 12,013 |
| 1973 | .. | .. | 14 | 13,842 |
| 1974 | .. | .. | 18 | 11,792 |

The dispensary incurred an expenditure of Rs. 6,270 for medicines during the year 1974.

Besides, there are two dispensaries one each at Prantiya and Chhala. The former was opened in 1973, while the latter was started in 1975.

AYURVEDA

The Ayurveda system of medicines which was popular in the past, gradually declined its importance with the advent of the British rule. This was due to several reasons, important among them being encouragement to

Allopathy system given by the British, the absence of scientific research in the Ayurveda, and dearth of *Vaids* well-versed in the science.

The national Government realised the importance of Ayurvedic system and has devoted attention to its revival by research and development. As a result, Ayurveda system of medicine has again gained popularity.

At present, there is one Government Ayurvedic Hospital at Unvarsad established in 1968-69 and one Government Ayurvedic dispensary at Dolara-na-Vasana, established in 1964-65. The hospital at Unvarsad has six beds in its indoor ward. It treated 19,204 patients in its outdoor department, and 44 patients in its indoor department during the year 1974.

NUMBER OF DOCTORS

According to the 1971 Census, there were 40 physicians and surgeons in the urban areas of the district. Figures for the rural areas are not available.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME

The Family Planning Programme is being vigorously pursued all over the State with a view to arresting abnormal growth of population. The District Family Planning Medical Officers are appointed in each district for the implementation of Family Planning Programme. In this district, a Family Planning Medical Officer was appointed in the year 1972. The Family Planning Programme is implemented through the Family Planning Centres and Primary Health Centres which distribute contraceptives among the needy married couples and carry out sterilization and I.U.C.D. (intra-uterine contraceptive device) insertions in suitable cases. As an encouragement, males and females undergoing sterilization operations are paid monetary compensation. Special camps for vasectomy operations are also organised to boost the programme of family planning. In order to attract private medical practitioners to participate in the programme, the practitioners are also paid incentive money.

The Family Planning Programme is implemented through the Rural Family Planning Welfare Centres in the rural areas and the Urban Family Planning Welfare Centres in the urban areas. The Panchayat staff and social workers help in popularising this programme. The Rural Family Planning Welfare Centres are attached to the Primary Health Centres.

There is one Urban Family Planning Centre at Gandhinagar and two Rural Family Planning Centres one each at Dabholia and Adalaj. Besides, there are 18 sub centres in the district. They are at the following villages:—
 (1) Lavarpur (2) Dashela (3) Limbadia (4) Raipur (5) Medra (6) Vadodara

(7) Shiholi Moti (8) Dolarana-Vasana (9) Isanpur Mota (10) Chandkheda (11) Unvarsad (12) Shertha (13) Koba (14) Rupal (15) Unava (16) Titoda (17) Kolavada (18) Motera.¹

The statement given below shows the progress made in the family planning programme since 1970-71.

STATEMENT XVI.3

Family Planning Programme

| Sl. No. | Year | I.U.C.D. | Achievement | | |
|------------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| | | | Operations | | Total |
| | | | Vasectomy | Tubectomy | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 1970-71 | 90 | 217 | 535 | 752 |
| 2 | 1971-72 | 31 | 1,789 | 303 | 2,092 |
| 3 | 1972-73 | 43 | 330 | 198 | 528 |
| 4 | 1973-74 | 133 | 41 | 261 | 302 |

Source :

Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

The vasectomy operations done in the district numbered 1,789 in 1971-72 and 330 in 1972-73. Similar figures of tubectomy operations were 303 and 198 respectively during these two years.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

As public health sector was not fully organised prior to Independence, provision for the health centres did not then exist. Because of the non availability of trained nurses and midwives, the health of women was seriously impaired during the pre-natal and post-natal stages, as the work was performed by untrained *dais*. As a result, the death rates among women and infants were comparatively high. With the implementation of the Five Year Plans, increasing attention is being paid to the training of nurses and establishment of primary health centres, maternity and child health centres and subsidiary health units. There are 6 Maternal and Child Health Centres functioning at the following places in the district : 1. Valad, 2. Chhala, 3. Sardhav, 4. Dabhoda, 5. Randheja and 6. Adalaj.

1. District Health Officer, Gandhinagar.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Government of Gujarat established a Bureau of Health Education in the year 1960-61 to organise health education programme in a systematic and intensive manner. The routine health education is carried out by the departmental staff during tours in the district, with a view to educating villagers in matters of health. Whenever fairs and festivals are held, the departmental staff carries out health education activities by showing films on subjects of health and hygiene.

The family planning workers and departmental staff are trained to give health education. They are allotted specific areas for their field work. The Family Planning Bureau arranges films shows, and other programmes in the district to promote health education. Special charts on the problems of health and family planning are locally prepared and displayed in the primary health centres.

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Director of Health Services, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad, is the head of all medical and health institutions in the State and is responsible for efficient working of all such institutions. The Directorate is divided into two sections, *i.e.*: (i) Medical and (ii) Health. On the health side, there is a Deputy Director of Public Health (Inspection) to look after all activities of Public Health Department, except Family Planning and Malaria-Filaria Programmes. He is assisted by Assistant Directors of Public Health in charge of different health programmes. These programmes are implemented through the District Health Officers who are in charge of all public health activities in the district. There is also a Joint Director of Public Health, at the headquarters who is in charge of all activities connected with the Family Planning and Maternity and Child Health Services in the State implemented through the District Family Planning Medical Officers. There is a full-time Joint Director (Statistics) at the headquarters, who is in charge of the statistical branch of the department. There is also a full-time Deputy Director of Public Health, (Malaria and Filaria) at the State level who is in charge of National Malaria Eradication Programme and National Filaria Control Programme. The National Filaria Control Programme is implemented through the Unit Officers in charge of National Filaria Control Programme at the district level.

In the Gandhinagar district, the District Health Organisation scheme and Family Planning are under the direct control of this Directorate. All primary health centres and dispensaries etc. are under the control of District Health Officer, Gandhinagar. Besides, there is also a District T. B.

Centre at Gandhinagar under a District T.B. Officer, who is directly under the control of the Directorate. The District T. B. Officer, Gandhinagar is responsible for taking measures to control T. B. The Civil Surgeon, Gandhinagar is in charge of the Cottage Hospital, Gandhinagar.

There is no separate National Malaria Eradication Programme Unit in this district; but the Unit Officer in charge of National Malaria Eradication Programme of Ahmadabad is looking after the activities in the Gandhinagar district.

PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES

Primary health centres and sub-centres provide basic health services in rural areas. They provide maternity and child health services in an integrated manner and carry out preventive and curative functions. Every primary health centre in this district is provided with one Medical Officer (Class II), one Health Visitor, generally four mid-wives, one at the main Primary Health Centre and one at each sub-centre, one Sanitary Inspector, one driver, four class-IV servants and a compounder. The main services provided at these centres include:—(1) medical relief, (2) health education, (3) control of communicable diseases with priority for malaria, (4) improvement of vital statistics, etc.

There are two primary health centres, one each at Dabhoda and Adalaj with sub-centres situated at (1) Valad, (2) Chhala, (3) Sardhav, (4) Unava and (5) Randheja. The Dabhoda primary health centre was established in the year 1956-57 while the centre at Adalaj was opened in 1963-64.

URBAN WATER SUPPLY

Water constitutes the most essential human need and as such the programme of drinking water supply assumes great importance.

The Sabarmati river which runs north-south in the capital area serves as the most vital source of water supply to Gandhinagar. The head works and the filtration plant are situated near village Fatehpura. The filtered water is now supplied to Gandhinagar directly from the underground water tanks constructed near the proposed industrial area.

The Gandhinagar water works was commissioned in the year 1968, at a cost of Rs. 22.25 takhs. At present, about 110 gallons of water is supplied *per capita* per day to the population. The total capacity of water supply is 4.50 million gallons daily while the actual use of water is 3.50 million gallons. The total number of domestic connections is 8,200 at present.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

The Rural Water Supply Projects are taken up under the following different programmes.

- (i) Villages under no source category.
- (ii) Villages under backward area.
- (iii) Villages having inadequate water supply.
- (iv) Villages having adequate water supply but requiring piped water supply.
- (v) Village under scarcity programme.

The Gandhinagar district has 53 villages with regular water works and piped water supply. Of these 53 villages, the sources of 12 villages have dried up and hence water works of 41 villages are functioning at present. Thus about 34 villages have remained without regular water supply schemes.

The villages are classified under the following categories.

| Sl. No. | Item | No. of villages | Popula- tion | Likely ex- penditure in lakhs of rupees. |
|--------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Villages having regular water supply projects | 41 | 107,200 | 45.0 |
| 2 | Villages covered under 'no source' category | 15 | 23,450 | 20.00 |
| 3 | Villages under backward area | Nil | | |
| 4 | Villages having inadequate supply | 7 | 16,000 | 6.00 |
| 5 | Villages having adequate supply but requiring regular piped water supply scheme | 12 | 30,000 | 12.00 |
| Total | | 75 | — | 83.00 |

Source : Executive Engineer, Capital Project Division 3, Gandhinagar.

As per the present policy, the full cost of water supply in 'no source' category is borne by the Government. The expenditure for such projects works out to be Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

The expenditure on the remaining projects will have to be borne by beneficiary villages and grant in aid at the rate of 40 per cent of the cost could be made available from the Government. The likely expenditure on such project works out at Rs. 63.0 lakhs (for 61 villages with the total population of 1,53,200).

STATEMENT XVI.4

Villages having Regular Water Supply Schemes

| Name of Village | Name of Village | Name of Village |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 Sardhav | 15 Unvarsad | 29 Ambapur |
| 2 Rupal | 16 Chiloda | 30 Khoraj |
| 3 Jakhora | 17 Isanpur | 31 Valad |
| 4 Chhala | 18 Magodi | 32 Vankannerada |
| 5 Randheja | 19 Prantija | 33 Galudan |
| 6 Jaiund | 20 Sargasan | 34 Medra |
| 7 Pethapur | 21 Tarapur | 35 Limbadia |
| 8 Dashela | 22 Por | 36 Bhat |
| 9 Giyod | 23 Kundasan | 37 Chandkheda |
| 10 Mahudara | 24 Shahpur | 38 Motera |
| 11 Shiholi Moti | 25 Lavarpur | 39 Koteswar |
| 12 Alampur | 26 Dabboda | 40 Bhoyan Rathod |
| 13 Titoda | 27 Vadodara | 41 Raipur |
| 14 Chiloda Naroda | 28 Koba | |

Village Covered under 'No Source' category :

| Name of Village | Name of Village | Name of Village |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Vasan | 6 Pundarisan | 11 Randesan |
| 2 Rajpur | 7 Vasana-Hadimata | 12 Ratanpur |
| 3 Sonipur | 8 Dantali | 13 Raysan |
| 4 Kolavada | 9 Jamiyatpur | 14 Zundal |
| 5 Bhundia | 10 Adalaj | 15 Amiyapur |

Villages having Inadequate Water Supply :

| Name of Village | Name of Village | Name of Village |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Pindharada | 4 Dhanap | 7 Viratalavdi |
| 2 Vavol | 5 Shertha | |
| 3 Ranasan | 6 Sanarda | |

Villages having Adequate Water Supply but requiring regular Piped Water Supply :

| Name of Village | Name of Village | Name of Village |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Unava | 5 Adraj Moti | 9 Pirojpur |
| 2 Chekhalarani | 6 Lekawada | 10 Sugad |
| 3 Dolarana-Vasana | 7 Palaj | 11 Nabhoi |
| 4 Piplaj | 8 Basan | 12 Karai |

DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The Gandhinagar township is served with underground drainage. Drainage is provided to serve the population of 75,000 in the first instance. The hydraulic design etc., are planned for the whole town, but in the first phase, laying of the intercepting and lateral sewers are limited to serve the above population.

RURAL DRAINAGE

The number of villages with population exceeding 5,000 is 8 viz., (1) Valad (2) Unvarsad (3) Pethapur (4) Kolavada (5) Randheja (6) Unava (7) Sardhav (8) Rupal. However, there is no underground drainage in any of these villages. The likely expenditure on the drainage projects for all these villages is estimated at about Rs. 90 lakhs. The plan and estimates for the drainage projects for two villages, viz., Sardhav and Pethapur are under preparation.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

INTRODUCTORY

Social welfare services form a new phase of public activities which have assumed greater importance after Independence. The present chapter deals with such services like labour welfare, prohibition, welfare of the Backward Classes and public and charitable trusts and endowments.

Before Independence, the British Government did not give sufficient importance to social services as they were interested primarily in collecting revenue and maintaining law and order in the State. The plight of the backward strata of the society was unenviable. As a welfare State, the national Government undertook various measures for the amelioration of the conditions of the backward strata of society which was hitherto neglected. A number of facilities and concessions have been provided to these classes so as to bring them on a par with other classes of the society. Similarly, for the welfare of the working classes, a number of labour welfare measures have been undertaken. These have gone far enough in removing the exploiting conditions in which they worked in the past. As a measure of social reform, especially to help improve the living conditions of the poorer strata of society, prohibition of liquor and other intoxicating drugs has been introduced and strictly enforced. These welfare measures are dealt with in the following paragraphs.

LABOUR WELFARE

The status and conditions of industrial workers have now changed for the better as compared to the past. At the same time, the industrialisation and urbanisation have also created problems of sanitation, over-crowding and unsafe conditions of working life which involve risk to life and limbs of the workers. In these circumstances, various labour laws are introduced to safeguard the welfare of the working classes.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The labour laws in force at present in the district include the following :

- (1) The Indian Boilers Act, 1923,
- (2) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,

- (3) The Trade Unions Act, 1926,
- (4) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936,
- (5) The Employment of Children Act, 1938,
- (6) The Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946,
- (7) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946,
- (8) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947,
- (9) The Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1948,
- (10) The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948,
- (11) The Factories Act, 1948,
- (12) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948,
- (13) The Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952,
- (14) The Mines Act, 1952,
- (15) The Working Journalists (Conditions of Services and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955,
- (16) The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 1958,
- (17) The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959,
- (18) The Gujarat Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1961,
- (19) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. (This Act was made applicable from 1st May 1964 and prior to this Act, Maternity Benefit Act, 1926 was in force),
- (20) The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.
- (21) The Apprentices Act, 1961,
- (22) The Gujarat Smoke Nuisance Act, 1963.
- (23) The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.
- (24) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.

- (25) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, (brought into force from 1972), and
- (26) The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

Of these, the more important labour laws which have introduced far-reaching changes in the welfare and working conditions of the labourers are the following :

(1) The Maternity Benefit Act

It regulates the employment of women before and after child birth and provides maternity benefits on a prescribed basis. The Act is made applicable to all the industries covered under the Factories Act of 1948. It is applied to 5 industries in the district in which 17 female workers were benefitted during the years 1969 to 1973.

(2) The Shops and Establishments Act

It limits the hours of work in shops and commercial establishments and provides for a paid weekly holiday.

(3) The Factories Act

It provides for the minimum requirements regarding health, safety and general welfare of workers and fixes their working hours. Five factories in the district are covered under this Act.

(4) The Workmen's Compensation Act

It provides for compensation to be paid to a worker who meets with an accident while on duty and

(5) The Provident Fund Act

It provides for the contributory provident fund for the economic stability of the workers. The first unit in the area now comprising Gandhinagar district was covered under this Act on 31st October, 1962. The Provident Funds Scheme at present covers three establishments in this district employing about 750 persons. Of them, 321 contributed to the provident fund in the year 1973-74.

PROHIBITION

The Gandhinagar district was constituted in 1964 by including 54 villages of the Daskroi, Dahegam and City talukas of the Ahmadabad district

and 25 villages of the Kalol taluka of Mahesana district. Those villages of Dahegam and Kalol talukas which were under the ex-Baroda State, had the following Acts in force in their areas.

(1) The Abkari Act, Samvat 1971, (2) The Opium Act, Samvat 1958 (Act-VII), (3) The Poison's Act, (4) Rules for the Excise opium, Samvat 1975 and (5) Rules relating to Abkari Act. In the villages which were under the Agency administration, the Bombay Abkari Act, 1878 was in force.

In the past, the drinking habit was confined to a few castes, mostly backward, for some of whom it was a customary practice to serve liquor to guests during social ceremonies like marriage, etc.

The policy of prohibition was advocated by Mahatma Gandhi in his 10-point constructive programme. Despite opposition from the vested interests, this programme was vigorously followed during the non-co-operation movement of 1930. Gandhiji spearheaded the movement for prohibition and organised picketing of wine and toddy shops. A lead for the cause of prohibition was thus taken by Gujarat.

The first step towards prohibition of alcoholic drinks and narcotic drugs was taken in the year 1938 when the first popular ministry formed under the Government of India Act, 1935 in the erstwhile State of Bombay introduced prohibition in the industrial areas of Ahmadabad City, Cantonment of Ahmadabad and 27 villages around them. In 1939, prohibition was extended to the Daskroi taluka of Ahmadabad district.¹

After Independence, a phased programme of prohibition was undertaken by the National Government. Under this programme, the sale of intoxicants was controlled progressively by a cut of 25 per cent. This policy of gradual prohibition culminated in total prohibition in April, 1950. Thus, total prohibition was introduced in this and other parts of Gujarat from April, 1950 during the Bombay State regime, under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.

The Prohibition Inquiry Report for Bombay State submitted by Shri M. D. Bhancali, I.C.S., in 1952 made a special mention of areas comprising this district in the following words :

"Smuggling of liquor is reported to be mainly from Dehgam taluka and North Daskroi taluka where it is manufactured from *gol* and

1. *Gujarat the Torchbearer of Prohibition*, Director of Information, Gujarat State, 1972, p. 2

mhowra flowers and also from rural areas surrounding Viramgam and Ahmedabad City. A certain amount of smuggling takes place by rail. Smuggling takes place in Daldia tins, cycle tubes, tiffin carriers and milk cans. Chharanagar where Chharas who formerly belonged to the criminal tribes reside, is notorious for this traffic. Chharas and Thakardas manufacture illicit liquor which is smuggled by Miyanas and Waghris. Cases of persons who have made money are reported from this area. Besides smuggling and illicit distillation, abuse of French Polish and Tinctures is also noticed. In other rural areas, improvement is reported and even in (Ahmedabad) City areas, Harijans, mill-workers and backward classes are stated to have benefited.”

Objectives and Working of the Prohibition Act.

The prohibition law is brought into force primarily with a view to eliminating the vice of drinking and rehabilitating the domestic life of the addicts, thereby raising the standard of living of the people. The following Acts are at present in force in the Gujarat State:

- (i) The Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949.
- (ii) The Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936.
- (iii) The Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959.
- (iv) The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.
- (v) The Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955.
- (vi) The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.

Of these, the first three are State Acts while the rest are centrally administered. Though the last three are Central Acts, their administration is left to the State Government. These Acts prohibit the import, export, transport, purchase, possession, use, consumption and manufacture of intoxicants in the State except under a licence or a permit. The work of enforcement of prohibition is entrusted to the police in addition to their normal duties.

The State Government has constituted a District Prohibition Committee to advise the administration in the matter of grant of certain licences under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949. Under this Act, the District Prohibition Committee also coordinates the activities of some departments under District Panchayat, Prohibition and Police.

Benefits of Prohibition

The backward and labour classes are more benefitted by prohibition. Adivasis, Kolis, Garasias, Bhils, Harijans and Thakardas are reported to have raised their standard of living. They now spend more on necessities.¹

Of late, prohibition has been made more effective. The illicit distillation is under check and offences of drunkenness, etc., are on the whole declining. Most of the addicts have redeemed their old debts. The number of crimes which were committed under the influence of drinks have also appreciably declined. Prohibition has brought about a healthy change in the domestic, social and economic life of the peasants, labourers and the Backward Classes in particular. Family quarrels have been lessened and quarrels in home and among the neighbours are less frequent. Instead, people take better care of their children and family and spend for their welfare.

The Social Welfare Department of the erstwhile Bombay State carried out a survey of the socio-economic conditions of the Backward Classes during the year 1958. The survey indicated that there was an overall improvement in social, economic and health conditions of the Backward Classes as a result of prohibition. They were able to save money which was utilised for their better life. The amount of income which was formerly spent on liquor was used for productive purposes².

सत्यमेव जयते

The efficiency of industrial labour has gone up considerably. Before prohibition, an industrial worker could look after 200 spindles. After prohibition, he can now attend to 400-800 spindles. As compared to this, in the wet areas even to-day, the average work-load of an industrial worker does not ordinarily exceed 200 spindles.

Prohibition Offences

More than 400 prohibition offences were detected during the year 1972-73 of which 202 related to illicit import, export or possession of liquor and 191 for drunkenness. The rest concerned possession of hemp drugs and opium. Prohibition offences recorded in the district between 1965-66 and 1972-73 are given in the following statement. It indicates a speedy decline in prohibition offences after 1969-70.

1. BHANSALI M. D., *Prohibition Inquiry Report in Bombay State, 1952*, p. 16.

2. *Gujarat the Torchbearer of Prohibition*. Director of Information, Gujarat State 1972, p. 98.

STATEMENT XVII.1**Prohibition Offences**

| Year 1 | Illicit import, export, transport, possession and distillation of liquor 2 | Drunken- ness 3 | Miscellaneous offences 4 | Opium 5 | Hemp. drugs 6 | Total 7 |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1965-66 | .. | 123 | .. | 143 | .. | 266 |
| 1966-67 | .. | 132 | .. | 184 | .. | 321 |
| 1967-68 | .. | 164 | 122 | 1 | 2 | 291 |
| 1968-69 | .. | 243 | 175 | 10 | .. | 431 |
| 1969-70 | .. | 536 | 254 | 3 | .. | 793 |
| 1970-71 | .. | 374 | 259 | 1 | 1 | 635 |
| 1971-72 | .. | 328 | 243 | 2 | .. | 576 |
| 1972-73 | .. | 202 | 191 | 1 | 11 | 409 |

Source :

Director of Prohibition and Excise, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

Set-up of the Department and its Functions

The Director of Prohibition and Excise headquartered at Ahmadabad is the head of the department. No independent Officer for Gandhinagar district has been posted but the Superintendent of Prohibition and Excise, Ahmadabad, looks after matters relating to Gandhinagar district. One Sub-Inspector of Prohibition and Excise, Rural, Ahmadabad, is incharge of Gandhinagar district. He has been vested with certain powers under the Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, 1936, the Bombay Drugs (Control) Act, 1959, the Spirituous Preparations (Inter State Trade and Commerce) Control Act, 1955 and the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955. The main functions of the Superintendent and his sub-ordinate officers are to implement the various restrictions imposed under the above Acts and the rules made thereunder to grant licences and permits for excisable articles, to exercise check in the licences granted and to recover excise or countervailing duties and fees on liquor, opium, hemp drugs, medicinal and toilet preparation containing alcohol, opium, narcotic drugs and other narcotics. Moreover, Honorary Prohibition Organisers were appointed in the district to look after the propaganda work and to co-ordinate various activities in order to secure co-operation of the public for the successful implementation of prohibition.

One departmental Sanskar Kendra is being run at Dabhdoda. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, under Scheme No. 620 this district was selected for intensive prohibition drive.

BACKWARD CLASSES

The Backward Classes may broadly be classified into two classes: the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Scheduled Castes

The predominant Scheduled Castes in the district are Vankar, Chamar, Garoda and Bhangi. The total population of the Scheduled Castes according to the Census of 1971 was 13,140 which formed 6.55 per cent of the district population and 0.72 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population of Gujarat. Members of the Scheduled Castes in the district are mainly engaged in agricultural labour (1,980), cultivation (183), processing, servicing and manufacturing industries other than household industries (709), household industries (86), transport, storage and communications (125), live-stock and forestry (33) and other services (704). About 43.22 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population of the district was recorded as literate. The extent of literacy among males and females was of the order of 56.30 per cent and 29.42 per cent respectively.

Scheduled Tribes

The predominant Scheduled Tribes in the district are Bhil and Dungri Garasia who must have migrated from the Sabarkantha district. The Scheduled Tribes population of the district according to the 1971 Census was only 406, i.e., 0.20 per cent of the district population and 0.01 per cent of the total Scheduled Tribes population of Gujarat. Only 23.89 per cent was termed as literate. The extent of literacy among male and female members was 35.85 per cent and 10.82 per cent respectively. Members of the Scheduled Tribes were found engaged mainly in agricultural labour (60), cultivation (14), trade and commerce (17), and in other services (31).

Advancement of the Backward Classes

Before Independence, no special efforts were made by the Government or the public at large for the amelioration of the condition and prospects of the Backward Classes. A great lead in this field was given by the Indian National Congress. With the entry of Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress became an earnest champion of the Harijans. It was mainly at his instance that the 1917 Congress adopted a definite resolution urging upon the people of India, "the necessity, justice and righteousness of removing all disabilities imposed by custom upon the Scheduled Castes".

The Baroda State, under the leadership of Sayajirao Gaekwad, also made some efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Backward Classes. The Backward Classes Protection Lands Act of 1938 prohibited alienation of lands of the Backward Classes to non-Backward Classes including money-lenders except on an annual lease. Since restriction on transfer curtailed credit of the Backward Classes, co-operative societies were organised to finance them on the security of lands of the Backward Classes. Apart from this, to remove the social disabilities of the Backward Classes, the Baroda State had passed legislation. All Government temples and public wells were declared open for Harijans under the Social Disabilities Removal Act of 1979. Moreover, the Baroda State had deputed members of the depressed class students for higher studies abroad and the late Dr. Ambedkar was one of them to be sent in 1913.¹ Dr. Ambedkar was also the first Harijan member to be nominated to the Baroda State Legislative Council.

The recognition of the justice of the cause of the Harijans by the Congress and the hearty support of several social workers of Gujarat to this noble cause gave a new impetus to the work that was being done for their amelioration. Such legislations as the Bombay Harijan (Removal of Disabilities) Act, 1946 which penalised a person who observed untouchability and the Bombay Harijan Temple Entry Act, 1947 which gave to Harijans a right of worship in a temple made a distinctive contribution to the cause of removal of untouchability.

The conditions of the Harijans and the Adivasis have improved considerably after Independence as a result of intensive work done by social workers and of various Socio-economic legislative measures undertaken by Government to ameliorate their conditions. In addition to these enactments, which are in force in Gujarat, activities designed to bring home to the general public the evils of untouchability are also undertaken by award of prizes to villages doing outstanding work for the removal of untouchability, grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies working for the eradication of untouchability, etc. The general attitude of the people towards the Harijans has also changed for the better, more so in towns than in villages. They are treated on a par with other members of the society in public functions or places of entertainment. Their children are now admitted without discrimination, to schools and colleges. They are now eligible for the highest position in the State and public bodies.

Their housing conditions have appreciably improved as a result of various housing schemes sponsored by the Government and local bodies.

I. DESHPANDE M. S. L. GOWDA, *Economic and Political Life in Baroda or Bhagyanagar Raj*, (1944), p. 42.

As will be seen later, their economic condition has also improved due to various concessions given by the State to overcome the disabilities from which they suffered in the past.

Welfare Schemes for the Backward Classes

The existing schemes for the welfare of the Backward Classes can be broadly classified into schemes for: (i) educational uplift, (ii) economic uplift and (iii) health, housing and other schemes.

Educational Uplift—Under the schemes for educational uplift, examination fees are granted to the Backward Class students without taking the income into consideration. To encourage bright students, scholarships are awarded every year. The Backward Class students are given merit scholarships to enable them to purchase books, stationery, etc. Free boarding and lodging arrangements have also been provided through recognised hostels. The Government of India scholarships are awarded by the Director of Social Welfare, Gujarat State, to students prosecuting studies in post-S.S.C. courses subject to certain conditions. Provision is also made for liberal grants for construction of hostels for the Backward Class students. There is a hostel for the Backward Class students at Pethapur with a capacity to accommodate 20 students. It is managed by the Backward Class Welfare Trust, Ahmadabad.

During the period between 1971-72 and 1974-75 about 5,730 Backward Class students in the district were awarded examination fees, scholarships, tuition fees, etc.

(ii) *Economic Uplift*—Most of the Backward Classes in this district are either agriculturists or landless labourers or artisans. Their condition can be improved only through schemes which have a direct bearing on their economic activity. Keeping this in view, the programme for their economic uplift includes the following schemes: (a) agricultural schemes, (b) financial assistance to cottage industries, and professions, and (c) financial assistance to co-operative societies.

Under the agricultural schemes, financial assistance is provided to cultivators for digging wells, purchasing oil-pumps, engines, agricultural implements, bullocks, bullock-carts, etc., as well as for minor irrigation purposes. Under the scheme for grant of subsidy for purchase of oil engines, subsidy is granted to members of the Backward Classes (whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 3600) to the extent of Rs. 1500 or 50 per

cent of the actual cost of the engine, accessories, etc., whichever is less. Under the scheme for grant of financial assistance for improvement of lands, the amount of subsidy is given at the rate of Rs. 100 per acre subject to the maximum limit of Rs. 500. In distribution of Government's waste land, priority is given to Harijans. Under another scheme, loans and subsidies to the extent of Rs. 1,000 per individual are granted to the Backward Class members (whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 3600) for starting cottage industries or developing professions such as tailoring, carpentry, etc. The ratio of loan and subsidy is 50 : 50. Similar assistance is given for cottage industries and co-operative societies started by the Backward Classes.

(iii) *Health, Housing and Other Schemes*.—Under the head 'Health, Housing and Other Schemes' there are 5 schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes, viz., the construction of drinking water wells, medical aid, eradication of the practice of carrying night-soil as headload, provision of house-sites, and housing subsidy for sweepers and scavengers. The special schemes for the Scheduled Tribes include construction of roads, bridges and culverts and establishment of subsidiary health units.

During the First Plan period, a scheme was introduced under which financial assistance was granted to co-operative housing societies of the Backward Classes. It was discontinued in April 1961 but was reintroduced on a slightly different pattern from 1972-73. At present, the Backward Classes are given financial assistance in the form of subsidy to the extent of Rs. 900 or 75 per cent of the expenditure incurred for construction of the houses. *Gharthal* land is also given to Harijans or to their co-operative societies free of charge or at a nominal price. A scheme for grant of financial assistance to the Backward Classes for medical treatment in genuine cases is in existence. Under the scheme, patients suffering from T.B., cancer, etc., are given assistance at the rate of Rs. 50 p.m. for 12 months. In ordinary cases, a lumpsum of Rs. 25 and in cases of accident, etc., a sum of Rs. 100 is given. During the Third Plan period, 218 patients were given medical aid.

Although the general policy of the Government is not to have separate wells for Harijans, some relaxation in the matter has been made since 1971-72 for construction of new wells for Harijans in hard cases. The full cost for the construction of wells to the extent of Rs. 3,000 is borne by the Government.

A total expenditure of Rs. 2.24 lakhs was incurred in the district during the period 1966-67 to 1973-74 for these welfare schemes as given below:

STATEMENT XVII.2

**Expenditure incurred under the State Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes
for the Welfare of the Backward Classes in Gandhinagar District.**

(RE. IN LAKHS)

| 1 | State Plan | | C. S. Schemes | | Total 6 |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Years 1966-67 to 1968-69 | Years 1969-70 to 1973-74 | Years 1966-67 to 1968-69 | Years 1969-70 to 1973-74 | |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| <i>Education</i> | | | | | |
| Scheduled Castes | .. | .. | 0.39 | 0.90 | .. |
| Scheduled Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 0.01 | .. |
| Nomadic Tribes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.04 |
| Denotified Tribes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.15 |
| Total | .. | 0.39 | 0.91 | 0.05 | 0.25 |
| <i>Economic Uplift</i> | | | | | |
| Scheduled Castes | .. | .. | 0.06 | 0.45 | .. |
| Scheduled Tribes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nomadic Tribes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.02 |
| Denotified Tribes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.02 |
| Total | .. | 0.06 | 0.45 | .. | 0.04 |
| <i>Health, Housing and other Schemes</i> | | | | | |
| Scheduled Castes | .. | .. | .. | 0.03 | .. |
| Scheduled Tribes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Nomadic Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 0.01 | .. |
| Denotified Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 0.01 | .. |
| Total | .. | .. | 0.5 | .. | 0.04 |
| <i>Grand Total</i> | | | | | |
| Scheduled Castes | .. | .. | 0.45 | 1.38 | .. |
| Scheduled Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 0.01 | .. |
| Nomadic Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 0.01 | 0.04 |
| Denotified Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 0.01 | 0.17 |
| Total | .. | 0.45 | 1.41 | 0.05 | 0.33 |
| 2.24 | | | | | |

Source :

Director of Social Welfare, Gujarat State, Ahmadabad.

Reservation of Seats for the Backward Classes

The Backward Classes are offered certain concessions in Government service. Before the formation of the Gujarat State when the district formed part of the erstwhile Bombay State, the Government of Bombay had fixed the following minimum percentages for reservation of seats in Government service for the Backward Classes in accordance with the provisions made under Article 335 of the Constitution of India.

STATEMENT XVII.3

Reservation of Seats

| Sl. No. | Category of Service 2 | | | | Percentage of vacancies to be reserved in recruitment. 3 |
|------------|--|----|----|----|---|
| 1 | All Class I and II services and posts thereunder | .. | .. | .. | 12 1/2 |
| 2 | Class III service | | | | |
| (i) | Scheduled Castes | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| (ii) | Scheduled Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| (iii) | Other Backward Classes | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| 3 | Class IV service | | | | |
| (i) | Scheduled Castes | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| (ii) | Scheduled Tribes | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| (iii) | Other Backward Classes | .. | .. | .. | 11 |

The Government of Gujarat continued these reservation percentages till 1969, when it introduced certain changes most of which are in force at present. In the case of the State level posts, the Government has fixed¹ the reservation percentages for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for the whole State as under:

| 1. No. | Category 2 | Classification of services and percentage of reservation | | |
|-----------|---------------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| | | Class I and II 3 | Class III 4 | Class IV 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Scheduled Castes .. | .. 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 2 | Scheduled Tribes .. | .. 14 | 14 | 14 |

1. Government of Gujarat, General Administration Department Resolution No. BAC-1064-3373-CH, dated 20th September, 1969.

Thus the reservation percentages are reduced in the case of Class I and Class II posts for the Scheduled Castes and increased for the Scheduled Tribes reflecting their respective population in this district. In the case of the Scheduled Castes, there is no material change in reservation percentage for Class III and Class IV services. But the reservation percentages in the case of the Scheduled Tribes have been doubled in the case of the Class III services and raised from 9 to 14 in the case of Class IV for them. Thus the percentages have been changed, having regard to the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

In the case of district level posts, the percentage of reserved seats are 7 for the Scheduled Castes and 14 for the Scheduled Tribes for Class III and IV services.¹

Other Concessions

For admission to the educational institutions, a certain number of seats are reserved for the Backward Class students. They are also given concession in the requirements of the minimum percentages of marks required for admission to the various education faculties. For the mid-term Parliamentary Elections of 1971, Gandhinagar constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Administrative Set-up

Before 1965, welfare activities for the Backward Classes were conducted by the Directorate of Social Welfare which had under it two wings: (1) the Backward Class Welfare Wing and (2) the Correctional Administration Wing. In 1965, the Backward Class Welfare Wing was separated and made an independent directorate known as the Directorate of Backward Class Welfare. In 1968, the separate Directorate of Backward Class Welfare was abolished and the work was transferred to the newly formed directorate named as the Directorate of Social Welfare. In 1969, this directorate was once again bifurcated and a new unit for the Backward Classes was formed named as Directorate of Harijan and Adivasi Welfare. In 1970, this directorate was re-designated as the Directorate of Social Welfare. It looks after the welfare activities of the Backward Classes. The Officer at the district level working under this directorate is designated as Social Welfare Officer.

Six posts of the Welfare Officers (State) as distinguished from those under the Panchayats were set-up in the municipal areas of the State. Their headquarters were fixed at Ahmadabad, Mahesana, Surat, Vadodara,

¹ Government of Gujarat General Administration Department Resolutions No. BAC-1084-3373-CH, dated 20th September, 1969 and dated 1st October, 1974.

Amreli and Rajkot. The Gandhinagar district falls under the jurisdiction of the Social Welfare Officer (State), headquartered at Ahmadabad, who works under the control of the Director of Social Welfare. There is one 'Pracharak' appointed by the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Ahmadabad for the propaganda work on untouchability.

Gujarat Tribal Development Corporation

In the year 1972, the Gujarat Government constituted the Gujarat Tribal Development Corporation with a view to undertaking the task of social and economic uplift of the members of the Scheduled Tribes in the State. The corporation has been empowered to take such steps as it may think proper, to plan and promote any programme of agricultural development, marketing and processing, supply and storage of agricultural produce, small scale industries, building construction, transport and such other activities as may be approved on this behalf, by the State Government. It has been also empowered to give grants and subsidies to the members of the Scheduled Tribes and their organisations for achieving its object of promoting social and economic uplift of the Scheduled Tribes.

Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments

Before Independence, there was no centralised supervision over all the public trusts in the State. The State authorities have been found to have interested themselves, since early days, in the affairs of religious and charitable institutions and exercised supervision and control over them besides providing means for their maintenance and upkeep. The Central enactments which were applicable to all the public trusts in the State were the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, and the provisions of sections 92 and 93 of the Civil Procedure Code. In 1935-36, during the former Bombay State, the following Central and State laws were in force for the control and supervision over the management of the public trusts: (1) the Bombay Public Trusts Registration Act, 1935, applicable to the public trusts existing for the benefit of the Hindu Community; (2) The Musalman Wakf (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1935 applicable to the Muslim Wakfs, and (3) the Parsi Public Trusts Registration Act, 1936 applicable to the public trusts existing for the benefit of the Parsi community. Thus before Independence, the machinery for exercising supervision and control over the public trusts varied according to the communities for whose benefit these trusts were created with no centralised supervision over all the public trusts.

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 was enacted with a view to covering all the trusts irrespective of caste, creed or community and to introduce uniformity in their supervision and control. It has certain new

features. Unlike the previous enactment on the subject, it applies to all the communities, in keeping with the principles laid down in the Constitution of India about the uniformity of civil laws and provides for a uniform machinery for exercising supervision and control by the State over the management of the public trusts. The definition of a 'public trust' has been widened so as to include the societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Act provides for the establishment of special machinery for dealing with all matters concerning the administration and management of public trusts, and working under the administrative control of the Legal Department. It provides for compulsory registration of all public trusts, and for the appointment of a Charity Commissioner and Deputy and Assistant Charity Commissioners for regions and sub-regions into which the State is divided for administrative convenience.

There is no separate organisation created for the administration of the public trusts in the Gandhinagar district. The district is under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Charity Commissioner, Ahmadabad.

Some of the important public trusts registered in the district are listed below:

1. Ambaji Mata Mandir and Dharmashala, Randheja
2. Ambaji Mata Mandir, Pethapur
3. Bileshwar Mahadev and Uncha Madhna Chabutra Trust, Randheja
4. Digamber Jain Derasar, Pethapur
5. Gandhinagar Jilla Kelavani Mandal, Gandhinagar
6. Gandhinagar Jilla Samaj Kalyan Sangh, Ahmadabad
7. Gandhinagar Seva Sangh, Unvarsad
8. Jain Derasar, Sardhav
9. Kasbani Masjid, Vavol
10. Kelavani Mandal, Randheja
11. Narsinhji Mandir, Shertha
12. Nav Paragana Pachhat Varg Kelavani Uttejak Mandal, Pethapur

13. Nilkantheshwar Mahadev, Rupal
14. Panjrapole Khoda Dhor Sanstha, Pethapur
15. Pragati Mandal, Dabhoda
16. Randheja Khadi Gramodyog Seva Sangh, Randheja
17. Randheja Rahat Trust Fund, Randheja.
18. Rupal Vardayini Mata, Rupal
19. Sanskar Mandal, Unava
20. Sarvajanik Pustakalaya, Randheja
21. Saurabh Stree Samaj, Gandhinagar
22. Swaminarayan Mandir Trust, Adalaj
23. Vaidic Sanskrit Pathshala, Rupal
24. Vaijnath Mahadev, Vasan
25. Vidyarthi Ashram, Unava





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CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

PUBLIC LIFE

The Gandhinagar district was constituted from the adjoining villages of Dahegam, Daskroi and City talukas of the Ahmadabad district and Kalol taluka of the Mahesana district. All villages of Kalol taluka and a few of Dahegam taluka were under the administrative control of the Vadodara State. The princely states, by and large, did not encourage public participation in their internal affairs. As such, the public life remained unorganised almost till the turn of the century. There were few organisations like the 'Kadi Prant Mahajan Sabha' (established in 1904) and the Praja Mandal of the Vadodara State established in 1916 which played a major role in organising public opinion. The Praja Mandal started its first branch at village Shertha of this district, under the supervision of Dr. Sumantbhai Mehta who had established an Ashram there. It was, in fact a centre to train people for the freedom movement. The Vidyarthi Ashram established at Unava also played an important role to strengthen public opinion. Moreover, the policy of Sayajirao Gaekwad (III) to associate people in the administration of the State, strengthened the organisation of public life in the areas which were under the administration of Vadodara State.

The public opinion became better organised after Independence. This process was accelerated after the framing of the Constitution which guaranteed fundamental rights to the people. This encouraged people to publicly express their views freely and fearlessly. The democratic set-up of free India also inspired people to realise the importance of public opinion. The adult franchise which gave every adult Indian an equal right to vote induced even the common man to take greater interest in the day-to-day working of the Government. The Panchayati Raj, introduced in 1963, enabled the village people to actively participate in the developmental activities at village, taluka and district level.

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE UNION AND STATE LEGISLATURE

The district has only one Assembly constituency. As regards Parliamentary constituency, the district forms part of the constituency termed as 'Gandhinagar' constituency, which includes certain area of the Ahmadabad City. In the General Elections of 1967 and Mid-term Parliamentary Elections of 1971, the Parliamentary constituency of 'Gandhinagar' was

reserved for the Scheduled Castes. Details for the present extent of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the district are as follows:

Delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

A—PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

1. Gandhinagar Sarkhej, Sabarmati, Ellisbridge, Dariapur-Kazipur, Shahpur, Asarva and Gandhinagar.

B—ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

1. Gandhinagar Gandhinagar circle and Pethapur circle (excluding the 23 villages in Pethapur circle in Gandhinagar district included in Sarkhej constituency) in Gandhinagar district.

Source :

The Gujarat Government Gazette, Part IV-C dated 28th February, 1974, pp. 56 and 94 (Proposals).

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS

In the 1967 General Elections to the Parliamentary constituency the Congress captured the seat defeating the main rival candidate of the Republican Party but in the Assembly the newly formed Swatantra Party won the election defeating the Congress candidate. The Congress and the Congress (O) have remained the main rival parties in the district in the 1971, 1972 and 1975 elections. Of the two, the Congress (O) has deeper roots in this district and has won two out of the three elections held so far. It lost the General Elections of 1972 to the Congress candidate. The last elections saw the emergence of the Janata Front which in fact was an alliance of opposition parties comprising the Congress(O), the Jana Sangh, the Bhartiya Lok Dal, the Socialist Party, the National Labour Party, the Lok Sangharsh Samiti, etc. A new party named as Kisan Majdoor Praja Party was formed in Gujarat in 1975.

All the political parties, except the Kisan Majdoor Praja Party, have their affiliations with the all-India bodies. There is no party of local origin in the district. A study of the election results of 1967, 1971, 1972 and 1975 reveals the relative hold of various political parties in the district.

The General Elections of 1967

In the General Elections of 1967, there were two political parties the Congress and the Republican Party besides one independent candidate contesting for one Parliamentary seat. The Congress captured the seat

securing 46.87 per cent of the votes while the Republican Party secured 37.91 per cent votes. In the Assembly constituency, there were three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Swatantra and the Praja Socialist Party besides one independent candidate. The Swatantra Party won the seat defeating the Congress Party by polling 43.35 per cent, of the votes. The Congress secured 40.64 per cent, the Praja Socialist Party 11.53 per cent and the independent 4.48 per cent of the votes. The percentage of valid voting was 64.57 in the Parliamentary constituency and 64.93 in the Assembly constituency.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them.

STATEMENT XVIII.1

Election Results, 1967

| Sl. No. | Name of the constituency | Party affiliations of the contesting candidates | Total valid votes polled | No. of valid votes polled by candidates | Percentage to total votes polled |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA) | | | | | |
| 1 | Gandhinagar (SC) | 1 Congress | 333,158 | 156,148 | 46.87 |
| | | 2 Republican | | 126,308 | 37.91 |
| | | 3 Independent | | 50,702 | 15.22 |
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (VIDHAN SABHA) | | | | | |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 1 Swatantra | 50,994 | 22,106 | 43.35 |
| | | 2 Congress | | 20,723 | 40.64 |
| | | 3 PSP | | 5,880 | 11.53 |
| | | 4 Independent | | 2,285 | 4.48 |

Source :

Report on the Fourth General Elections, 1967, in India, Election Commission, Government of India, Vol. II, pp. 41,240.

The Mid-term Parliamentary Elections of 1971

In the mid-term Parliamentary Elections of 1971, there was almost a straight fight between the two parties, Congress (R) and the Congress (O), though the Republican Party and an independent candidate were also in the fray. The Congress(O) won the seat by securing 47.61 per cent votes, while the Congress(R) secured 46.42 per cent, of the total valid votes polled. The rest even lost their deposits. The percentage of valid voting was 52.29. The following table shows the details of the result.

STATEMENT XVIII.2**Election Results, 1971**

| Sl. No. | Name of the constituency | Party affiliations of the contesting candidates | Total valid votes polled | No. of valid votes polled by candidates | Percentage to total votes polled |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA) | | | | | |
| 1 | Gandhinagar (SC) | 1 Congress (O) 2 Congress (R) 3 Republican 4 Independent | 2,92,810 | 1,39,417 1,35,915 11,979 5,499 | 47.61 46.42 4.09 1.88 |

Source :

Collector, Ahmadabad District.

The General Elections of 1972

In the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly held in 1972, there were three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Congress(O), and the Jana Sangh besides two independent candidates. The Congress won the seat. It polled 39.51 per cent while the Congress(O) secured 31.76 per cent followed by the Jana Sangh (24.93 per cent). The two independent candidates got only 3.80 per cent of the total valid votes polled and lost their deposits. The percentage of valid voting was 69.39 which was much more than in the previous elections.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them.

STATEMENT XVIII.3**Election Results, 1972**

| Sl. No. | Name of the constituency | Party affiliations of the contesting candidates | Total valid votes polled | No. of valid votes polled by candidates | Percentage to total votes polled |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (VIDHAN SABHA) | | | | | |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 1 Congress 2 Congress (O) 3 Jana Sangh 4 Independent 5 -do- | 67,073 | 26,501 21,303 16,720 1,579 970 | 39.51 31.76 24.93 2.35 1.45 |

Source :

Collector, Ahmadabad District.

The General Elections of 1975

Consequent on the popular agitation all over Gujarat led by the Nav Niraman Samiti, the Congress-led ministry resigned in January 1974 and the Gujarat Legislative Assembly was dissolved in March, 1974. There was President's rule in Gujarat till June, 1975 when fresh elections were held. These elections saw the emergence of the Janata Front which came to be established shortly before the elections to defeat the Congress party. The Front comprised several political parties including the Congress(O), the Jana Sangh, the Socialist Party, the Bhartiya Lok Dal, the National Labour Party, etc. The Front selected Congress(O) candidate from this constituency. The other parties were the Congress and the newly formed Kisan Majdoor Praja Party besides two independent candidates. The straight contest, however, was between the Congress and the Janata Front candidates belonging to Congress(O), who secured the seat by polling 60.70 per cent of the total votes polled. The Congress polled 30.38 per cent, the Kisan Majdoor Praja Party 6.79 per cent and the independent candidates 2.13 per cent. The overall percentage of voting was 59.95.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates and the number of valid votes polled by them in the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly in 1975.

STATEMENT XVIII.4

Election Results, 1975

| Sl. No. | Name of the constituency | Party affiliations of the contesting candidates | Total valid votes polled | No. of valid votes polled by candidates | Percentage to total votes polled |
|------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | Gandhinagar | 1 Congress (O) | 53,109 | 32,239 | 60.70 |
| | | 2 Congress | | 16,133 | 30.38 |
| | | 3 Kisan Majdoor Praja Party | | 3,806 | 6.79 |
| | | 4 Independent | | 695 | 1.31 |
| | | 5 -do- | | 436 | 0.82 |

Source :

The Times of India, June 13, 1975 and the *Sandesh* (Ahmadabad) June, 13, 1975.

STATEMENT XVIII.5

Votes polled in the General Elections, (1967 to 1975)

| Elections Year | Total No. of electors | Total Votes polled | Percentage of Col. 3 to 2 | Total valid votes polled | Percentage of Col. 5 to 2 | Name of the parties | Votes polled by parties | Percentage to total valid | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (LOK SABHA) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1967 | 5,15,980 | 3,54,758 | 68.75 | 3,33,158 | 64.57 | 1. Congress 2. Republican 3. Independent | 1,56,148 1,26,308 50,702 | 46.87 37.91 15.22 | |
| 1971 | 5,59,956 | ... | ... | 2,92,810 | 52.29 | 1. Congress (O) 2. Congress (R) 3. Republican 4. Independent | 1,39,417 1,35,915 11,979 5,494 | 47.61 46.42 4.09 1.88 | |
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (VIDHAN SABHA) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1967 | 78,531 | 56,030 | 71.35 | 50,994 | 64.93 | 1. Swatantra 2. Congress 3. PSP 4. Independent | 22,106 20,723 5,880 2,285 | 43.35 40.64 11.53 4.48 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|
| 1972 | 96,662 | .. | .. | 67,073 | 69.39 | 1. Congress | 26,501 | 39.51 |
| | | | | | | 2. Congress (O) | 21,203 | 31.76 |
| | | | | | | 3. Jana Sangh | 16,720 | 24.93 |
| | | | | | | 4. Independent | 2,549 | 3.80 |
| 1975 | 86,383 | 54,961 | 63.62 | 53,109 | 59.95 | 1. Congress (O) | 32,239 | 60.70 |
| | | | | | | 2. Congress | 16,133 | 30.80 |
| | | | | | | 3. Kisan Majdoor Lok Paksh | 3,806 | 6.79 |
| | | | | | | 4. Independent | 1,131 | 2.13 |

Source :

1. 1967 General Elections Report on the Fourth General Elections, 1967 Vol. II, Election Commission, Govt. of India, Pp. 41 and 240.
2. Mid-term Parliamentary Elections of 1971 and Assembly Elections 1972-Collector, Ahmedabad district.
3. The Times of India (Ahmedabad), 13 June, 1975. } For 1976 elections.
4. The Sandesh, (Ahmedabad), 13 June, 1975.

The above statement indicates that there was an appreciable increase in voting percentage from 64.93 in 1967 to 69.39 in 1972, revealing the general political awareness among the people. The last elections of 1975, however, recorded a decline in voting percentage (59.95).

NEWSPAPERS

No daily or weekly newspaper is published from the district. Newspapers from Ahmadabad city from where several well-known Gujarati dailies are published, are available in major centres of this district within a couple of hours. As such, the Gujarati dailies published from Ahmadabad especially the *Gujarat Samachar*, the *Sandesh* and the *Jansatta* are widely read in this district. Among the English newspapers, the *Times of India* and the *Indian Express* of Ahmadabad, are popular.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Origin, Growth and Direction

The phenomenon of voluntary social service is closely associated with the democratic form of Government which promises equal status and opportunities to all the sections of the society like women, children, the illiterate, the disabled and the backward strata. After Independence, voluntary institutions of various types have been established at the district level.

A few of the important institutions established in the district after Independence are described below.

Shri Gandhinagar Jilla Vyayam Mandal, Adala;

The Gandhinagar Jilla Vyayam Mandal was established in 1966 with the aim of promoting physical education and cultural activities in the district. For this purpose, the Mandal arranges game competitions at district level every year and organises educational and cultural programmes like elocution competitions, drama and *garba* competitions, etc. About 1000 participants take part in these competitions.

Shri Jay-Ambe Yuvak Mandal, Randheja

The Jay-Ambe Yuvak Mandal was established in 1953, with a view to developing educational, cultural and social activities in Randheja. It runs a students' book centre from where text books are provided to the needy students of the village. It also runs a village library and organises cultural

programmes, game competitions and Shram Shibirs every year. The Mandal helps people at the time of natural calamities by collecting funds and distributing food packets, etc. It is registered under the Public Trusts Act and is recognised by the Gujarat State Youth Board.

The Nutan Yuvak Mandal, Valad

The Nutan Yuvak Mandal was established in 1964 with a view to developing educational, cultural, social and physical activities in the village. For this purpose, it organises cultural programmes. The collected funds are utilised in the educational and social uplift of the village. It also supplies first-aid appliances to the needy patients. The Mandal has organised a Gram Rakshak Dal in the village.

The Rupal Yuvak Kalyan Sangh, Rupal

The Yuvak Kalyan Sangh was established at Rupal in 1967 with a view to developing educational, social and physical activities in the village. The Sangh organises eye camps, family planning camps, game and essay competitions, etc. It runs night classes for adults in the village.

The Sarvodaya Yuvak Mandal, Magodi.

The Yuvak Mandal was established in 1971 with a view to promoting educational, cultural and social activities among the youth. For this purpose, it arranges game competitions, Sharm Shibirs, youth seminars, etc., and runs night classes for the last three years. The Mandal has its own building.

The Yuvak Seva Samaj, Unava

The Yuvak Seva Samaj was established at Unava in 1967, with a view to organising youth activities for their educational, cultural and social uplift. For this purpose, the Samaj organises Shram Shibirs, study tours, games and elocution competitions, essay competitions, etc. It helps people at the time of natural calamities like flood, famine, etc.

Besides the institutions described above, there are about 20 small institutions like Yuvak Mandals, Mahila Mandals, etc., which have limited spheres of activities at village level. Moreover, there are other institutions mainly working in the field of education. As such, they are described in the chapter on 'Education and Culture'.



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CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Adalaj—P. 4,221, Area in acres, 4,426, V. P.*

Adalaj is famous for its ancient step-well, considered among the best in Gujarat. The village is situated on the National Highway No. 8-A at a distance of 15 km., from Gandhinagar. It is also connected by the State Transport bus routes. The ancient step-well popularly known as *Adalaj-ni-Vav* was built in Samvat year 1555 (1499 A.D.) by Rudbai or Ruda Rani, daughter of Raja Venu and wife of Raja Virsing, a Vaghela Rajput, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakhs. It was built by her to commemorate the name of her father. For this purpose she had called 7 masons of the Vanzara community.

Near the step-well, there is a newly constructed temple of Ambaji Mata. The whole village seems to be an old settlement as fragments of old bricks are found here and there. Some of the broken idols and coins were discovered when the step-well was cleaned recently. This step-well is a unique specimen of architecture with a huge and artistic edifice which allows one to reach the edge of water howsoever deep it may be, by a flight of steps. The entire structure is underground and has storeys laid one upon another and a number of chambers one behind another. The ancient temple of Neelkantha Mahadev visited by many seems to be 125 years old. There is an idol of Mahishasur Mardini on the right side of the wall outside the outer part of the *mandap*. In the *shikhara* of the temple, there are old paintings depicting scenes of *Ramayana*; *Samudra Manthan* and *Ras Leela*. The paintings also depict a Goddess who has heads of demons Chand and Munda in her two hands. There are also horses with 7 heads and Lord Krishna playing on flute. The dress shows impact of the Maratha rule as well as the British rule. Another temple of Lord Shiva known as Jagnath is completely renovated recently and is said to have been built by officers of the Peshwa. There are other temples of Swaminarayan, a Jain Mandir and a new temple of Ramdev Pir. There is also an idol of Chehar Mata. It seems to have been dedicated to a *sati* named Kesarbai of the Rabari community.

The village has a primary school, a high school, and a female teachers' training college known as Manekba Vinay Vihar. The Manekba Vinay Vihar also runs pre-primary teachers training college for women. college

* ABBREVIATIONS : P. Population (1971), V. P. = Village Panchayat.

of Physical Education for women, an agricultural school, technical education centre, educational extension service centre, etc. The village is also served by a primary health centre, a post office and a telephone exchange. Adalaj has a saw mill and a tobacco processing unit. The village is electrified and has water works. A branch of Central Bank of India was opened here in 1969.

Ambapur—P. 2,069, Area in acres 1,357; V. P.

The village Ambapur is 10 km. from Gandhinagar and 7 km. from the Sabarmati railway station. It is served by the State Transport bus services during fair weather. There is an ancient step-well preserved in a fairly good condition. The village is served by a primary school and a branch post-office.

Chandkheda—P. 4,196, Area in acres 2,590; V. P.

Chandkheda is situated about 22 km. from Gandhinagar and is connected by the State Transport bus services. It is a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Ajmer-Delhi railway line. It is also an important trading centre in the district. It has snuff factory, a cement pipe manufacturing factory and a bandage factory. There is a well-known temple made out of glass and dedicated to Goddess Ambaji. There is a temple of Brahmani Mata, where a fair is held on Ashwin Sud 14. It is also a picnic place visited by a large number of persons on holidays. The village has a primary school, a secondary school, a post-office and a branch of Dena Bank opened in 1972. The village has water works.

Chhala—P. 4,686, Area in acres 5,339; V. P.

The village Chhala is 24 km., from Gandhinagar and 15 km., from Dabholia, a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Khedbrahma metre gauge section of the Western Railway. It is also connected by the State Transport bus routes. Chhala has two Jain temples, an old temple of Kapileshwar Mahadev, Bhimnath Mahadev, Ramji Mandir and a mosque. The village is also known for its handloom cloth. Two fairs with a large congregation are held here one at the temple of Ambaji on Ashwin Sud 15 (Sharad Purnima) and the other at Kapileshwar Mahadev on Shivratri. The village has a primary school, a high school, a public dispensary, a library and a post office. It has telephone, electricity and water works facilities. A mobile branch of the State Bank of India visits the village on fixed days. There is a milk producers, co-operative society and a multipurpose co-operative society.

Chiloda—P. 1,546; Area in acres 1,439; V.P.

Chiloda is 6 km., from the nearest railway station Dabholia and 10 km., from Gandhinagar. The Ahmadabad-Delhi National Highway No. 8 passes near the village. It is also served by the State Transport buses. The village has a Brahmani Mata temple, a Ramji Mandir and a Shiv temple. The village has a primary school, a secondary school, a public library and a branch post-office. The mobile branch of the State Bank of India serves the village once a week. Near Chiloda, there is a village called Dhamkad where some idols of Chaulukya period are found in the Ambaji Mata temple.

Dabholia—P. 8,204 Area in acres 5,702, V.P.

Dabholia is the second biggest village in the district situated on the bank of the river Khari. It is a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Khedbrahma metre gauge section of the Western Railway. It is connected by the State Transport bus routes with different centres in the district and outside. Dabholia was an Ankadia village. In the past it was known as Devgadh. It was the headquarters of the *Bavisi thana* of Mahikantha Agency.

Before 1947, there was a distillery at Dabholia. The court of Sabarkantha Agency was situated here. It has a rest house and a library. Dabholia is known for the temple of Hanumanji. Two fairs are held here every year on Janmashtami (Shravan Vad 8) and Kali-Chaudash (Ashvin Vad 14). Besides there are temples of Dabholi Mata, Ramdev Pir, Acharya Mandir, Memai Mata, Mahakali Mata and *Satini deri*. Dabholia has two primary schools including a girls school, a secondary school, a primary health centre, a maternity home, a veterinary centre, a post office and a telephone exchange. An office of the Gujarat Electricity Board has been opened here. The village is served by the branches of State Bank of India and the Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank and two service co-operative societies. There is a female beggars home run by the State Social Welfare Department.

Dolarana Vasana—P. 2,862; Area in acres 2,657, V.P.

It is situated on the bank of the Sabarmati river, 19 km., away from Gandhinagar and 17 km., from Dabholia, the nearest railway station on the Ahmadabad Prantij metre gauge railway line. In the past, it was the capital of a small princely State. It is named after Shri Dolatsinhji. There is an old palace of the Thakor. To the north of the village on the bank of the river Sabarmati, there is an old well called *Barino kuvo* in ruined condition. There are temples of Ambaji Mata, Bahuchar Mata, Shri Rama, Laxminarayana, Swaminarayana Mandir, Bhuvneshwar Mahadev and a Khakh Chock temple of the Khakhi Baba. There is an inscription dated Samvat 1748 on the Hanumanji temple in the premises of Shri Laxminarayan temple

situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati. There is one *bidi* works. The village has a multipurpose co-operative society and a milk producers' co-operative society. The mobile branch of the State Bank of India visits this village once a week. The village has a primary school, a secondary school, a library, a Government Ayurvedic dispensary, a veterinary centre, water works, and a post-office. In the past, it was well-known for its *rangati* work. About one km. away from this village there is an old temple of Boria Mahadev where the old ruins speak of its antiquity.

Galudan—P. 1,404; Area in acres 1,766, V. P.

Galudan is 20 km. from Gandhinagar and 3 km. from Dabhdoda, which is the nearest railway station. The village is connected by the State Transport bus services. It is said that the name of the village is derived from the word "Guru" (teacher). The village was originally inhabited by Brahmins who acted as preceptors or Gurus. The place therefore came to be popularly known as 'Gurugam' which later got corrupted into 'Gurudan' or 'Galudan'. The village has a primary school, a high school, a post-office and a water works. There is an ancient temple of Ambaji on the river bank. Besides, there are other temples dedicated to Shri Ram, Brahmani Mata, Modheshwari Mata, etc.

Gandhinagar—(The Capital of Gujarat). P. 24,055.

Gandhinagar, the newly constructed capital of the Gujarat State is situated on the western bank of the river Sabarmati about 30 km. from Ahmadabad, the former capital.

Gandhinagar, as its name suggests has been dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. It promises to bloom into an ideal township with cosy residential quarters, well laid out roads with flowering trees coming up in rows on either side and other buildings with their simple but attractive facades. On the eve of bifurcation of the ex-Bombay State, it was announced that Gujarat State will have a new capital. The work of the capital project was started in 1960 but was discontinued as soon as it was found that the area was bearing oil. In 1963 clearance was obtained from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission that there is no objection to construct the capital. Thereafter the survey work was again started in 1965. The construction work of the Capital Project was started in 1967. With the shifting of the Sachivalaya to Gandhinagar in June 1970 the work gathered momentum.

The present railway station of Khodiar on the Ahmadabad-Delhi meter-gauge line about 16 km. (10 miles) to the north of Ahmadabad serves as

the railway station for Gandhinagar for the time being. The railway station of Gandhinagar itself would be soon commissioned linking it with Ahmadabad.† The broad-gauge railway line, which at present terminates at Sabarmati will be extended to link Gandhinagar. The Ahmadabad-Mount Abu State Highway by-passes Gandhinagar 5 km. to the west while the Bombay-Delhi National Highway No. 8 by-passes the site 5 km. to the east, across the river.

Gandhinagar occupies an area of 21 sq. miles i.e. 5,500 hectares (13,560 acres) and it is having an elevation of 70 ft. higher than Ahmadabad. The main roads K, Kh, G, GH, CH, CHH and J stretch from north to south and Roads Nos. 1 to 7 crossing them at right angles stretch from east to west, thus dividing the city in 30 rectangles. Each such rectangle which is having an area of 1 km. X 0.75 km. is known as a sector. There are 30 sectors in the Gandhinagar town-ship. Residential quarters for Government servants are planned and constructed in the centre of each sector and private housing is proposed on all four sides of the sector around Government quarters. The township is planned for ultimate population of 1,50,000. At present the following sectors are fully developed; No. 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and other sectors, viz., 9, 10, 12, 15, 30 are partly developed.

Eight categories of residential quarters have been constructed for Government employees depending upon their pay-scales. In each residential sector, four categories of Government dwelling units have been put together so as to achieve a balanced social grouping. Shopping centres, community centres and parks and play-grounds, etc. are provided in all the residential sectors. At present there are nearly 7,000 quarters of various categories under occupation.

A 'Pathikashram' constructed at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs provides accommodation for 200 beds in various categories for the visitors to Gandhinagar. The building has been designed in a 'cluster' fashion so that about 8 to 10 rooms are grouped together with a common lounge. While the Pathikashram provides accommodation for people at large, another building 'Vishram-Gruha' is constructed to accommodate Government officers on tour.

A dispensary has been provided in each of the residential sectors. The dispensary has mainly an out-patient department and also a female and male ward with two beds each for emergency cases. The Civil hospital is located to the east of the crescent road near the proposed bridge over the river. The Raj Bhavan, Circuit house and exhibition grounds, etc., are planned along the crescent road.

† It has been now commissioned.

A district centre is provided for four or five communities. The population served by each district centre is about 40,000. It is to have shops of selective nature-restaurant, cinema, dispensary, police station, post office and play-field for organised games. These district centres may also serve the adjoining villages of Pethapur, Kolavada, Wavol, etc.

The Central Secretariat or Sachivalaya is housed in an impressive structure of buildings constructed in Sector No. 17. Nearby there is a State Legislative Assembly building. Other State Government offices including the State Bureau of Economics, Directorate of Evaluation, etc., are housed in Sector No. 18. In addition to being the State Capital, Gandhinagar is also the headquarter town of the taluka as well as the district. As such most of district and taluka level offices are located here. Gandhinagar has a series of parks and playgrounds in the residential communities where children from the adjoining areas can easily walk in. Larger playgrounds for organised games are provided in each of the district centres. In addition to these, a large park and recreational area is developed along the river front. Tree planting on all the main town roads, internal sector roads and approach roads to the city has already been completed. A large number of trees are also planted by the Forest Department.

Gandhinagar has primary schools in all sectors. Besides there are four secondary schools, and an arts and commerce college and a science college. A cinema house has been recently started. Recently a beautiful temple has been built. All sectors of the township are inter-linked with an internal bus service run by the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation.

Filtered drinking water is supplied through pipe lines. The source of water is the river Sabarmati. The headworks with the filtration plant is situated near village Fatehpura, 3 km. upstream to the north of the city. The sewage treatment plant is situated about 17 km. away towards south-west.

Gandhinagar has branches of (i) State Bank of India (ii) Dena Bank (iii) Bank of India (iv) Bank of Baroda (v) Union Bank of India and (vi) Allahabad Bank.

Isanpur—P. 3,232; Area in acres 3,176; V. P.

Isanpur is 15 km. from Gandhinagar. The nearest railway station is Dabholia about 10 km. from here. The village is served by the State Transport bus services which ply during fair weather. There is an ancient step-well believed to have been built in A. D. 1865. There is also a small

mosque built between A.D. 1500-1515. It is an important milk-producing centre. *Mava* prepared from milk is exported from here. Isanpur has a Balmandir, 2 primary schools, a high school, a public library and a branch post-office. The branch of the Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank is working here. There is an ancient temple on the bank of the village tank.

Koba—P. 1,624; Area in acres 1,668, V. P.

Koba is about 10 km. from Gandhinagar and about 9 km. from the Sabarmati railway station. The village is also connected by the State Transport bus services. Koba is famous for the Kasturba Ashram, managed by the Kasturba Smarak Trust which conducts a primary teachers' training college for women. The trust organises a fair known as Kasturba Gandhi fair on Shivratri to commemorate the death anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi which falls on this day. It also conducts a cradle home for the benefit of working women. Koba has a primary health centre and a veterinary centre. The village has two pre-primary schools, one primary school, and a secondary school. There are post and telephone facilities. The ancient temple of Kumbheshwar Mahadev is situated about one km. from here on the bank of the river Sabarmati. The village was originally settled on the bank of the river but was swept away during a heavy flood in the Sabarmati, in Samvat Year 1932 (A.D. 1876). It was thereafter resettled as 'Nava Koba'.

Koteshwar—P. 559; Area in acres 733, V. P.

Koteshwar is situated on the river Sabarmati at a distance of about 10 km. from Ahmadabad. It has an ancient temple of Koteshwar Mahadev built by Bajirao Peshwa. The village has a primary school.

Motera—P. 2,160; Area in acres 1,270, V. P.

Motera is on the border of the Gandhinagar district and only 10 km. from Ahmadabad city. The Sabarmati railway station is less than 2 km. from here. The village is connected with Ahmadabad and Gandhinagar by the State Transport buses. It is known for the Sadashiv Ashram situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati. Regular discourses on Vedanta and Gayatri recitations are conducted at the Ashram which is visited by many. There is a large "Gayatri Upasana Khand" specially designed for the purpose. There is another Ashram known as Motera Ashram of Sant Shri Asharamji also on the river bank. The Ashram is visited by the followers of all religions.

The entire village was swept away in 1876 A.D. during the heavy flood in the river Sabarmati. The new village which was later inhabited was

bigger (*mota*) and as such came to be known as 'Motera'. Motera has a primary school, a high school, a post office, a public dispensary, water works and electricity. There are two cement pipe factories and a factory manufacturing leather articles. The temples of Shiv, Brahmaji Mata and Swaminarayan are well-known. Swami Sahajanand is believed to have visited this village.

Pethapur—P. 8,586; Area in acres 8,331, V. P.

Pethapur is the biggest village in the district. It is situated on the bank of the river Sabarmati about 7 km., from Gandhinagar. Before Independence, it was a small princely State belonging to Vaghela Rajputs. It was originally known as Sokhda because of the ancient temple of Sukhadia Mahadev on the bank of the river. Subsequently, it was named as Pethapur after the name of Thakor Prithusinh or Pethaji who once ruled over it. In the past, it was a very important trading centre. The *Bandhani* (a type of *sari*) prepared here was famous all over India. Even now the cotton *saris* with dotted parallel lines running into two opposite directions and each crossing the other to produce the *chokdi* or rhombo effect prepared in this village are popular throughout Gujarat. The Moianas of Pethapur used to make *saris* and the Blacksmiths guns and knives. The Bhavsars and khatri were known for dyeing work and the cloth was exported to Thailand. The town had 2 suburbs known as Fatehpur and Gambhirpur. It had a municipality which earned almost one half of the total revenue earned by the State. The 'Sodagari' types of wooden printing blocks were exported to Singapore in the past. They are now exported to Bombay, Jodhpur, Rajkot, Ahmadabad, etc. Pethapur was once known for manufacturing swords. There is a factory manufacturing wooden blocks used for calico printing presses besides a Bobin factory and a tiles factory. The village has two Ambar Charkha centres, two textile assessories manufacturing units, a soap factory, one saw mill, one lathe work, five flour mills, chemical industries and one steel furniture making unit. The Jain temples here are visited by many from the surrounding villages. Besides, there are temples of Sukhadia Mahadev, Bhinnath Mahadev, Achaleshwar Mahadev, Radha Vallabh Mandir, Ramji Mandir, Swaminarayana Mandir, and temples of Ambaji Mata, Kalika Mata, Ramdev Pir and Hanumanji. In the village many old houses have wood carvings of exquisite beauty and paintings on walls. Branches of Bank of Baroda and Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank have been established here. Pethapur has a well-established Potato Growers' Co-operative Society. Pethapur has two pre-primary and two primary schools, a secondary school, a library, a Mahila mandal, a dispensary, a maternity home and a post office. There is a cinema house also. The village has facilities of water works, electricity, telegraph and telephone.

Randheja—P. 8,132; Area in acres 3,507, V. P.

Randheja is a big trading and commercial centre of the district. It is a railway station on the Kalol-Vijapur railway line. It is connected with Gandhinagar and other centres in and outside the district by the State Transport bus services which ply from here during all weather. Randheja is a trading centre for surrounding villages and an important centre for production of cotton and tobacco. The village has one cotton ginning and processing factory, one ice factory and a factory manufacturing machine parts. In the past, Randheja was a centre of silk weaving. The agriculturists of this village are considered progressive and prosperous. It is believed that Randheja got its name from one Radha Rabari who was perhaps the original founder of this village. Randheja has one pre-primary school, two primary schools, a secondary school, a gymnasium and a general hospital. It has got branches of State Bank of India and the District Co-operative Bank. Randheja is served by water works and a post and telegraph office. There are number of temples among which mention may be made of the Varahi temple, the Bhimnath Mahadev, Nageshwar Mahadev, the Ambaji temple and a Jain temple. A fair is held here during the Navratri festival (October) and is attended by about 7,000 persons.

Rupal—P. 5,222, Area in acres 4,257, V. P.

The village Rupal is famous for the ancient temple of Vardayini Mata where a large fair is held during the Navratri festival. The festival is known as 'Rupalni-Palli'. The village is situated 15 km., north of Gandhinagar. The nearest railway station is Randheja about 4 km., away. Rupal is connected by the State Transport buses throughout the year with important centres in and outside the district. It has a pre-primary school and two primary schools including a girls school, and a high school. There is a public library, a public dispensary and a maternity home, a water works and a post and telegraph office. Rupal is served with electricity and telephone facilities. There are three tobacco processing units and small factories manufacturing bricks and beedies. Branches of Dena Bank and the Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank have been established here. There are several ancient temples among which mention may be made of the Vadinhath Mahadev, Nilkanth Mahadev and the Maha-Prabhuji's seat. An urs is held at Balapir every year when about 3000 persons assemble here. It is believed that the village was originally known as Rupavati.

Vardayini Mata Temple

The Vardayini or Vardakshini Mata is popularly known as Vaduchi Mata. It is said that in the *Satya Yuga*, the goddess destroyed the demon Durmad in order to protect the gods. In the *Treta Yuga*, Rama with Sita

and Lakshman on his way to Dandakaranya visited the hermitage of sage Shringi in the vicinity of Rupal and worshipped the goddess Vardayini under a *varakhda* (*Salyadora persica*) tree and obtained from her a divine weapon with which he killed Ravan. In the *Dwapar Yuga*, the Pandavas while in exile came to a forest near Rupal, made an idol of the goddess from five metals, and installed it under a *varakhda* tree and worshipped her. Pleased by their worship, she gave them garments to disguise their identity during the last year of exile. When the period of exile was over, they went to the goddess, worshipped her and placing the idol in a golden *palli* or a palanquin resembling a chariot without wheels, took out a procession.

In the Virata Prava of *Mahabharat* it is stated that, after making offerings to Bhagavati Arya, the Pandavas concealed their weapons on a *shami* tree and the goddess bestowed a boon. The goddess is since then known as Vardayini or Vardakshini.

Rupal has also a place in history since the time of Mulraj Solanki. In *Shri Sthal Prakash* it is recorded that King Mularaj gave sixty-six villages in alms to very learned Brahmins on Kartik Sud 15, Thursday, Samvat 924. Rupal is included in the list of villages so given in alms to Brahmins. Siddharaj Jaysinh, attributing the cause of his conquest over King Yashovarma of Malwa to the blessings of the goddess, constructed a temple and installed her idol bringing it in a *palli* borne by his warriors in a pompous procession. Since then the *palli* festival is celebrated at Rupal.

The temple constructed by Siddharaj was subsequently destroyed by the Muslim invaders. In Vikram Samvant 1930 (1874 A. D.) people of Rupal constructed a magnificent temple and ceremonially installed a marble idol of the goddess therein with religious rites. When Malharrao Grekwad of Vadodara was deposed by the British a Brahmin of Rupal named Travadi Muljiram Purushottamdas was serving as a cook in the palace at Vadodara. Jamnabai, the widow of Malharrao's brother and predecessor Khanderao Gaekwad, feared that the State would be confiscated. At that time Muljiram told her about the miracles of Vardayini and the marvellous celebration of *palli* festival. He also advised her to take a vow to offer ghee weighing one and a quarter maunds in the *palli* if her wish were fulfilled. This she did. The Government of India accepted her right of adoption and she adopted Sayajirao as an heir to the throne. As avowed, she attended the function at Rupal with Sayajirao and offered ghee together with gold ornaments, of which one ornament, *chhantiya* still decorates the neck of the goddess. She also built a *dharmashala* on the three sides of the temple, as there was no accommodation for the pilgrims then¹.

1. Census of India Vol. V, Gujarat, Part VII-B, *Fairs and Festivals*, pp. 275-277.

Sardhav—P. 6,363, Area in acres, 2,869, V. P.

Sardhav is about 12 km., from Gandhinagar with which it is connected by the State Transport bus services. There are temples of the Mukheshwari Mahadev, Hatkeshwar Mahadev, Ranchhodji, Ambaji Mata, Varahi Mata, Ramdev Pir, Swaminarayan, a Vaishnav haveli and a Jain temple. The village has a hospital equipped with X-Ray and Pathological Laboratory and Maternity ward. There is also a primary health sub-centre. The village has a per-primary school, two primary schools, a high school, a public library and a Gram Vikas Mandal. There are branches of Central Bank of India and the Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank. The village has post, telegraph and telephone facilities. It has water works, electricity and a public garden.

Shertha—P. 4,597, Area in acres 3,109, V. P.

The village Shertha has acquired importance due to the discovery of mineral oil from here. It is a railway station on the Ahmadabad-Ajmer-Delhi main metre gauge line and is also connected by the State Transport bus service with Ahmadabad-Kalol and other places. Shertha is about 10 km. from Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat. The village is also known for the best quality chillies produced here. Agriculturists of Shertha are considered progressive and prosperous. Shertha has a primary school, a secondary school, a post office and a branch of Dena Bank opened in 1971.

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The oil fields in the nearby areas has lent importance to Shertha. Moreover, as the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Corporation is in the vicinity of this village, there is scope for development in future.

Unava—P. 5,758, Area in acres 3,478.

Unava is a railway station on the Kalol-Vijapur Railway line. It is 13 km. from Gandhinagar and connected with it by the State Transport buses. Near by there is a temple of Vaijanath Mahadev with 11 *Shiva lingas* and 13 *shikhara*s. It is believed to have been constructed in the Vikram Samvat 101. It was destroyed during the Muslim period, and renovated probably in the 15th or 16th century. The Vasanta Mahadev temple is only at a distance of 2 km. from this village. The Vidyarthi Ashram established here during the pre-Independence days played an important role in the freedom movement. Unava has two primary schools, one for boys and one for girls, a secondary school, a library, a maternity home, a child

welfare centre, and post, telegraph and telephone facilities. The village is electrified and has waterworks. A branch of Bank of Baroda provides banking facilities. There is a tobacco processing centre in the village.

Unvarsad—P. 6,028, Area in acres 4,218, V. P.

Unvarsad is 8 km. from Gandhinagar and at about the same distance from Khodiar, which is the nearest railway station. It is connected by the State Transport bus routes with Gandhinagar and Ahmadabad. The village is said to have been named after goddess Uma. It is said that the Pandavas, while in exile, had stayed here *incognito*. The village has an ancient four storeyed step-well in a fairly good condition and a tank called Khatiasar. There are temples of Antareswar Mahadev, Sankheswar Mahadev, Pimpleshwar Mahadev, Nilkanth Mahadev, Swaminarayan and Shri Rama. Besides there are temples of Brahmani Mata, Ambaji, Mahakali, Varahi, Ramvir and a Jain temple. The fairs are held here during the Navratri and the Shivratri festivals. There is an Ahram known as 'Niranjani Akhada'. Old idols of Shiva-Parvati, Ganpati and Mahishasur Mardini are preserved in the temple of Nilknth Mahadev. Two small Jain images were found from a well here. The village has few old residential houses of Bania Community with beautiful wood carving. There is a Hindu dormitory named Revabai Dharmashala. Unavarsad is an important trading centre of tobacco. The village is served by a Balmandir, two primary schools, including a girls school, a secondary school, a public dispensary and a maternity home. There are facilities of post, telegraph and telephone. Branches of Central Bank of India and Ahmadabad District Co-operative Bank are opened here.

Valad—P. 5,345, Area in acres 3,940, V. P.

Valad is 21 km., from Gandhinagar and 3 km., from Medara which is the nearest railway station. It is served by the State Transport bus services throughout the year. There is an ancient step-well and an old temple dedicated to Goddess Matri. Besides there are Ramji Mandir, Mahakali Mandir, Koteswar Mahadev and Baliyadev temple. The place is believed to be very old, as ancient ruins are sometimes found here. It is said that the village was founded by Bala, daughter of saint Jabali was popular as Balapuri in the past. From Balapuri, the name got corrupted into 'Balad' and 'Valad'. There is a beautiful idol of sain Jabali preserved in good condition in the village. The village is electrified and has a primary school, a high school and a post office. The Ashram of Swami Madhvavirth is situated here.

Vasan—P. 1,986, Area in acres, 1,988, V. P.

Vasan is 13 km. from Gandhinagar and is served by the State Transport buses which ply here during fair weather. The village is said to derive its name from an ancient Shiva temple (Vasania Mahadev) believed to be 2,000 years old. It has old Salati paintings on the dome ceiling. The Vaijnath Mahadev temple where a large fair is held on Janmashtami festival is visited by about 8000 persons from the surrounding villages.

Zundal—P. 2,621, Area in acres 1,653, V. P.

The village Zundal is 12 km. from Gandhinagar and 5 km. from Khodiar, the nearest railway station. The village is said to have been named after Zundo Rabari from Saurashtra. There is a beautiful temple of Swami-narayan,besides a Ramji temple, a Hanumanji temple and a Shiva temple. The village has a primary school and a high school. There are two cement pipe factories in the village. Green vegetables, especially tomatoes grown here are in great demand in the surrounding areas.





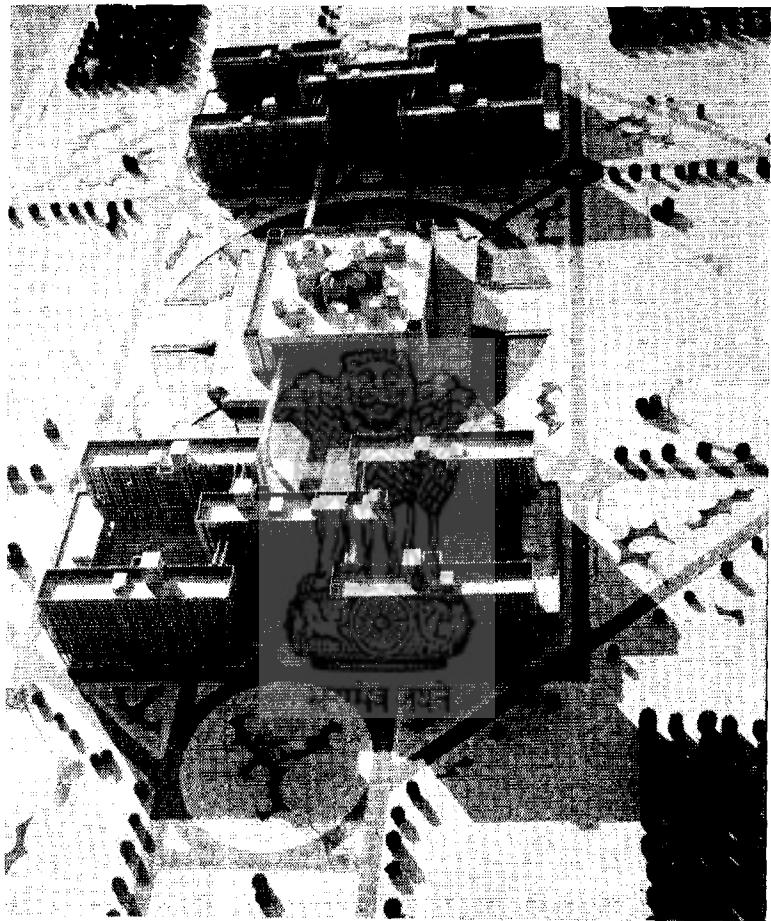
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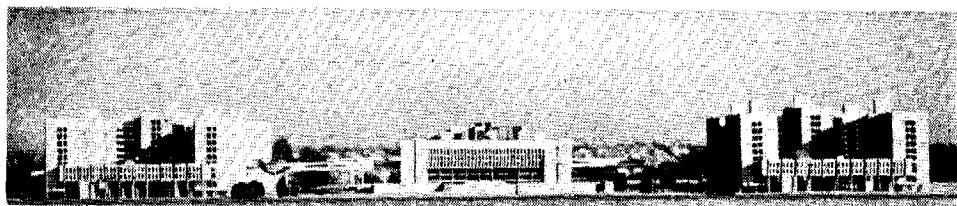
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Note : Plates 1—7 and 9—11 have been supplied by the Chief Town Planner, Gandhinagar.

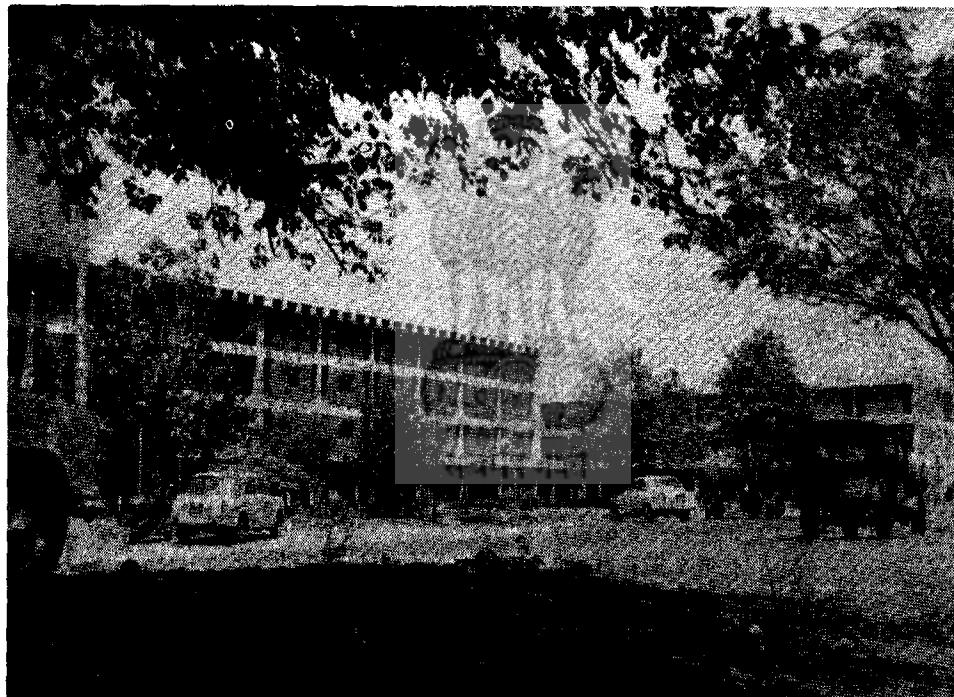


1. Aerial View of Sachivalaya Complex

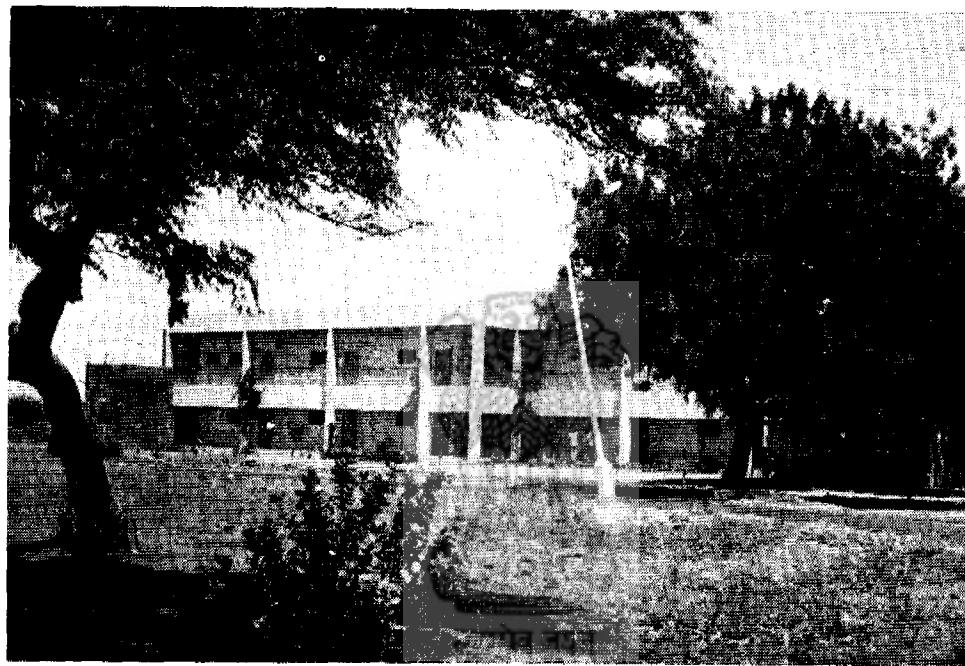


2. Sachivalaya Complex (Model)

By Courtesy—Chief Town Planner, Gandhinagar.



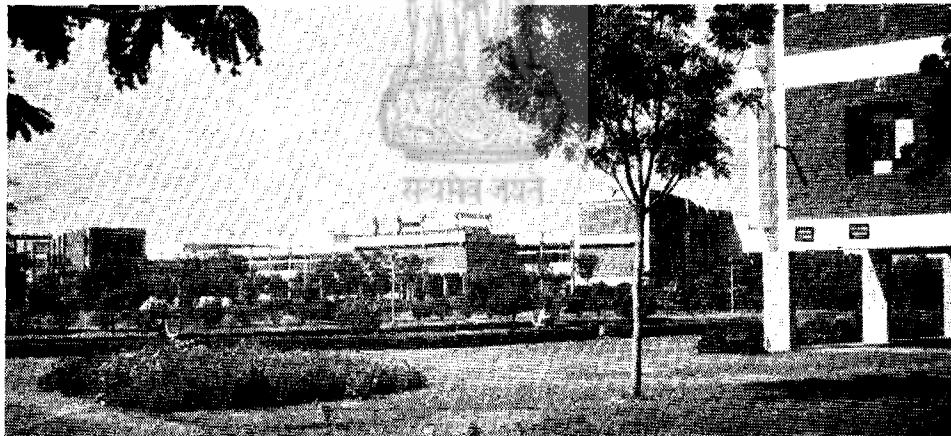
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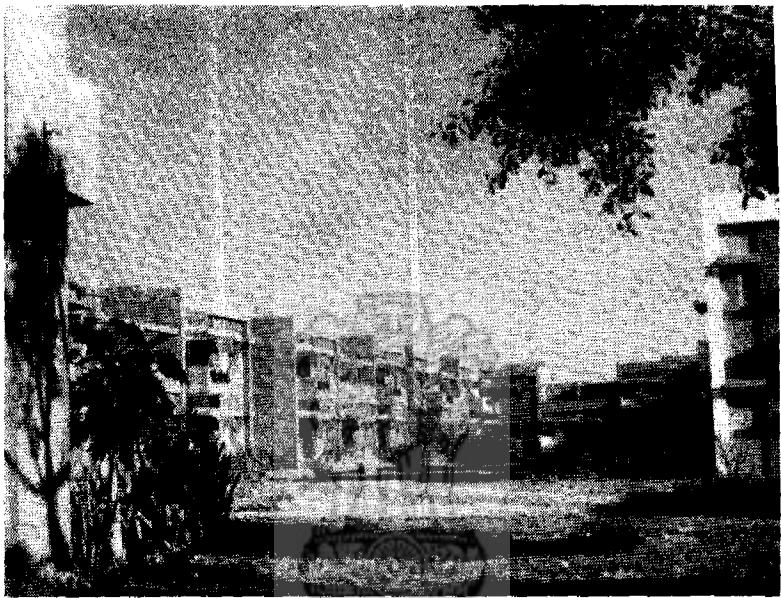
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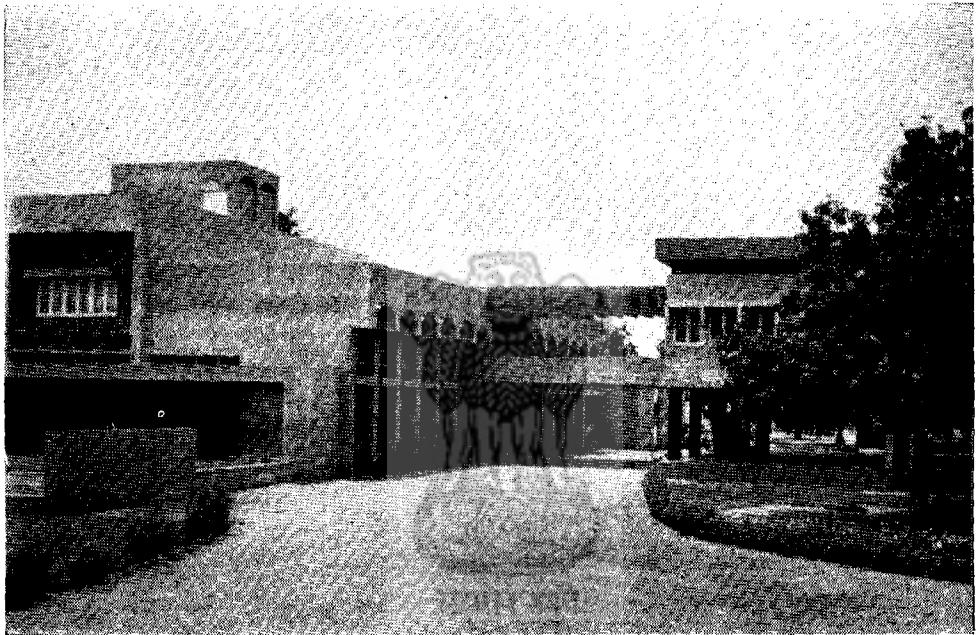
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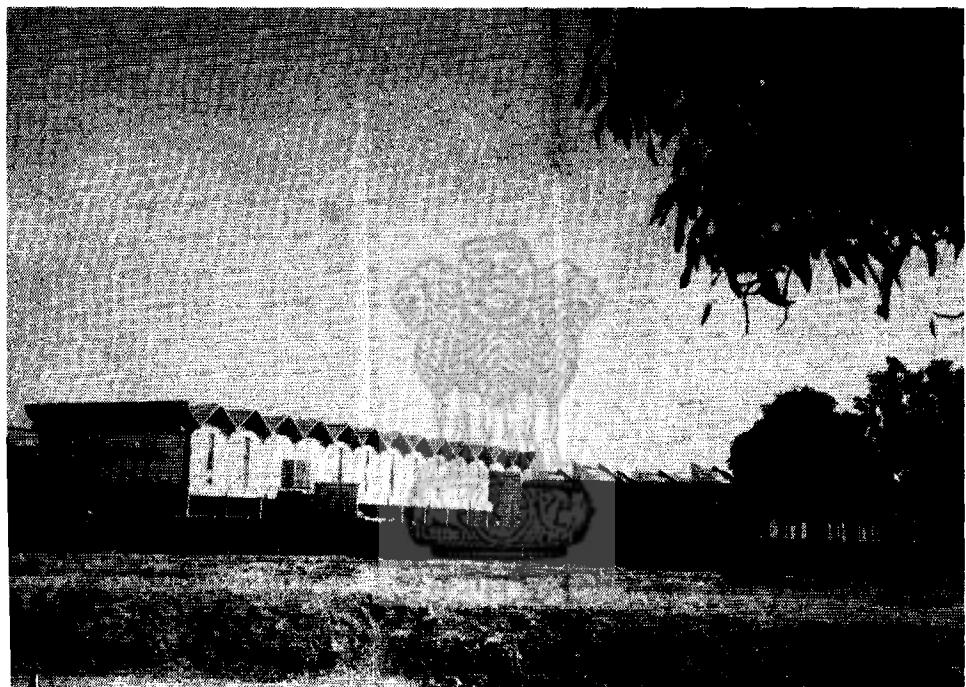
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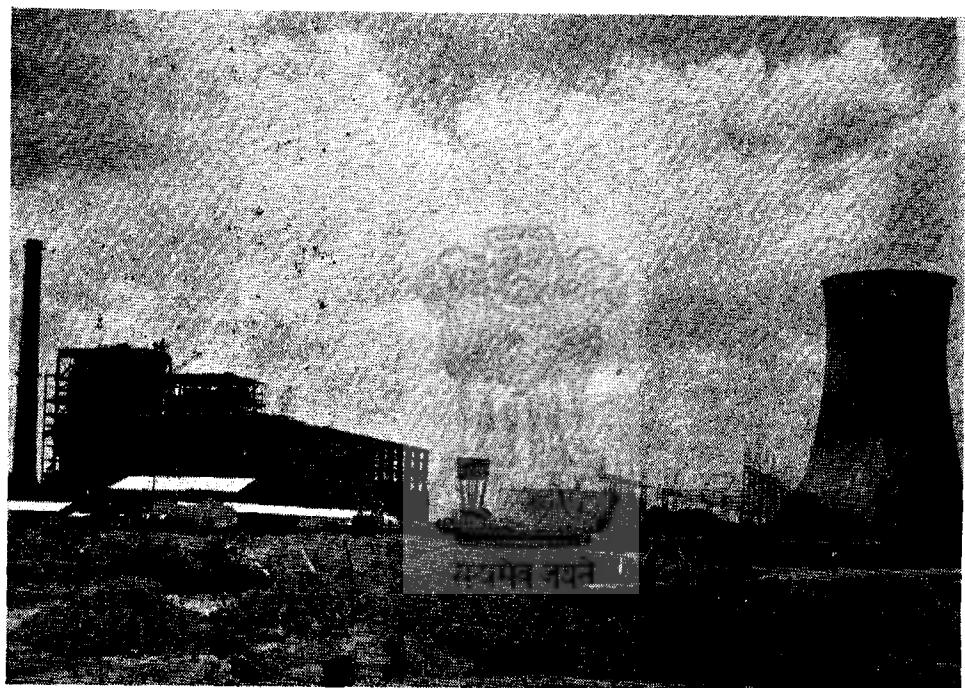
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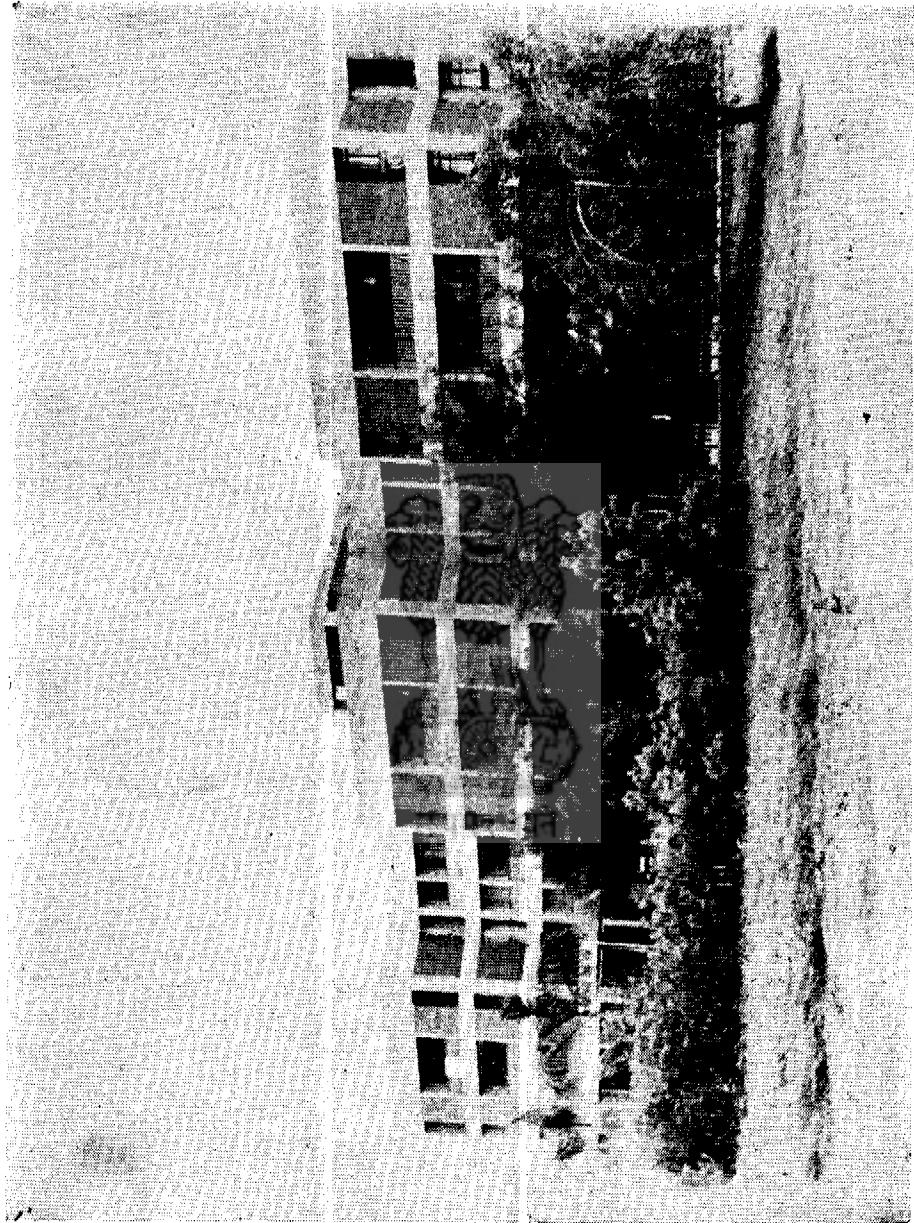


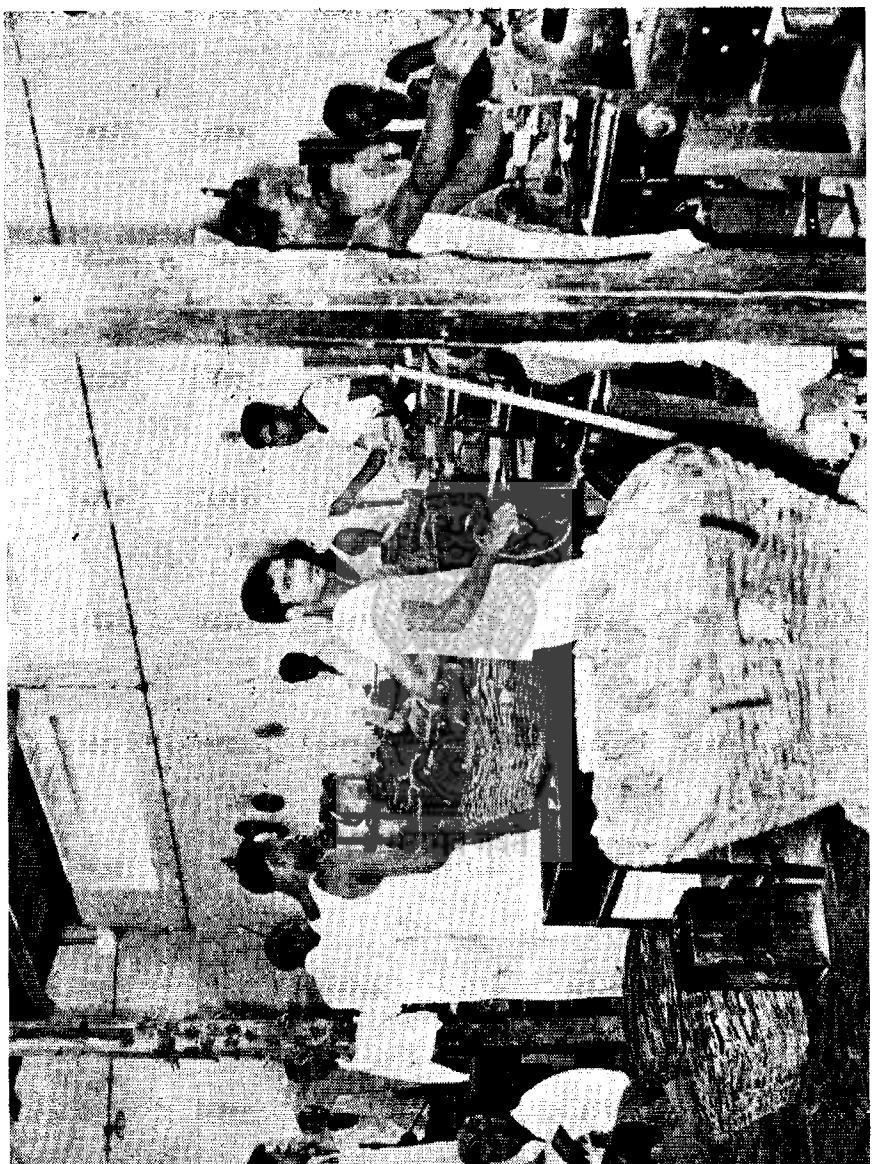
11. Government Central Press, Gandhinagar



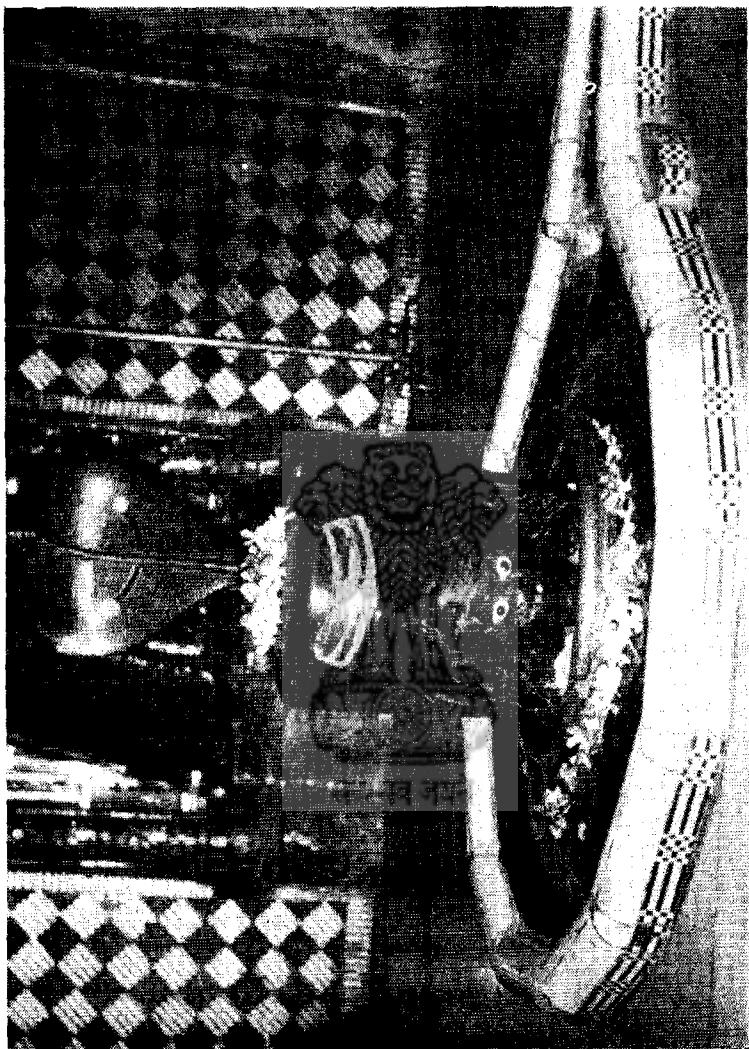
12. Thermal Power Station, Gandhinagar.

13. Panchayat Bhavan, Gandhinagar.

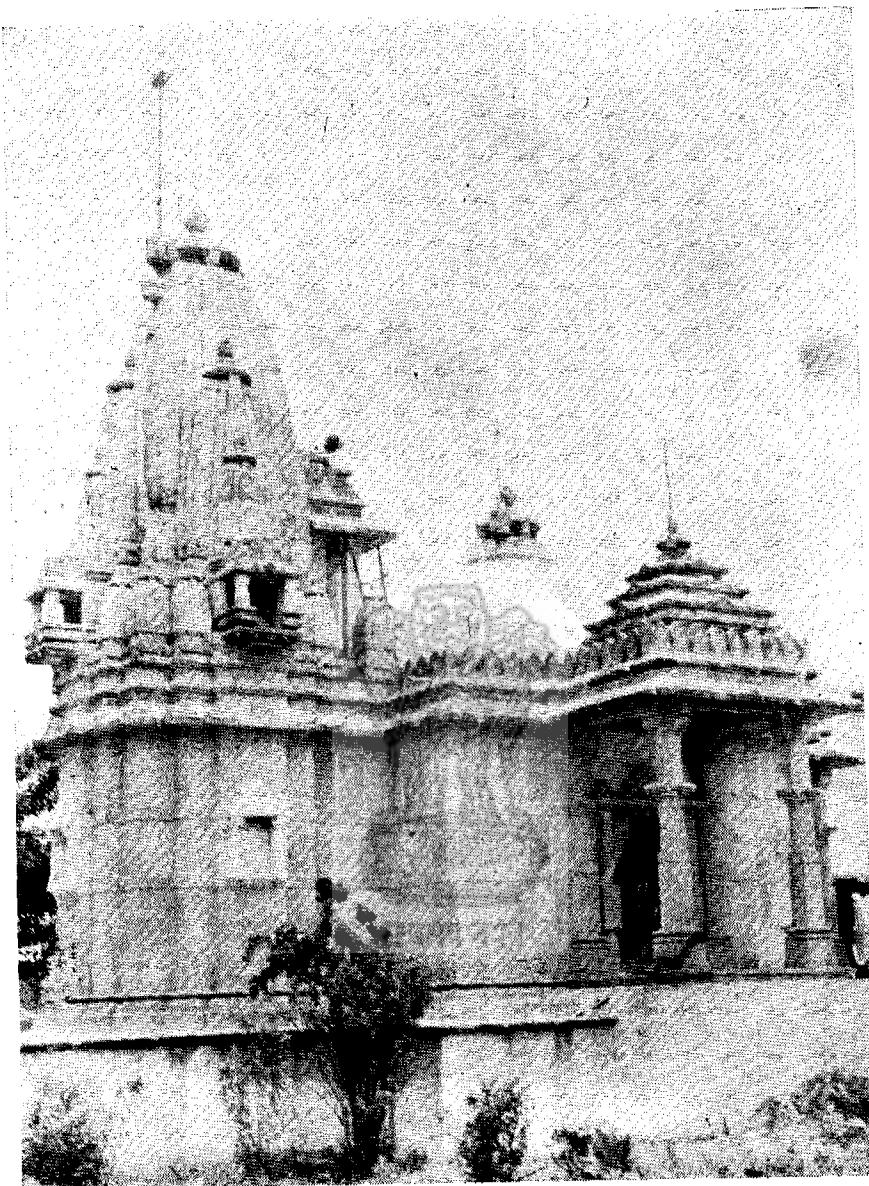




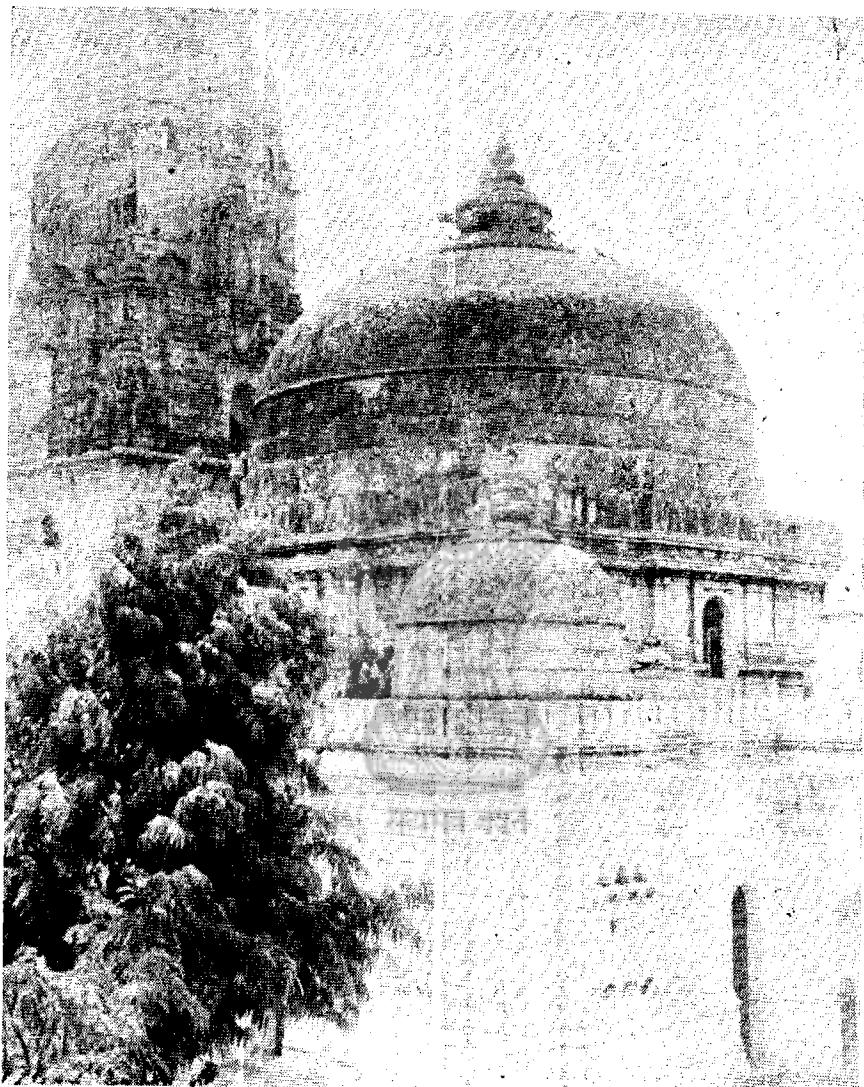
14. Bobin Works, Pethapur.



15. Mukheshwar Mahadev, Sardhav.



16. Temple of Mahadev, Sardhav.



17. Vasania Mahadev, Vasan.

GLOSSARY

A

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Acharya</i> | ... | ... A religious head; a preceptor |
| <i>Achchher</i> | ... | ... A measure of weight about half a <i>seer</i> or a pound in weight |
| <i>Agarbatti</i> | ... | ... An incensed stick usually lighted before an idol or deity to purify atmosphere |
| <i>Ahimsa</i> | ... | ... Non-violence |
| <i>Akhyan</i> | ... | ... Mythological episode |
| <i>Amavasya</i> | ... | ... New moon day, the last day of the dark lunar fortnight |
| <i>Ambadi</i> | ... | ... Royal seat on the back of an elephant |
| <i>Ambli-pipli</i> | ... | ... An Indian game |
| <i>Amin</i> | ... | ... An Officer appointed by the Subedar of Maratha Government |
| <i>Ankada</i> | ... | ... A number; a figure, sum of total |
| <i>Ankadia</i> | ... | ... A type of revenue system |
| <i>Apabhramsa</i> | ... | ... One of the prakrit languages |
| <i>Ashram</i> | ... | ... Hermitage |
| <i>Avatar</i> | ... | ... An incarnation |

B

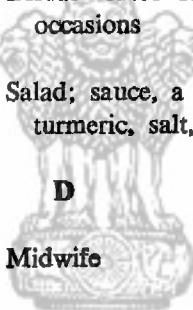
| | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Babashahi</i> | ... | ... A unit of currency which was legal tender in the Gaekwad's territories till 1901 |
| <i>Bajri</i> | ... | ... Indian millet; name of a cereal <i>Pennisetum typhoideum</i> |

B—Concl.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Balmandir</i> | } | ... A school for children below five years |
| <i>Balwadi</i> | | ... Tie and dye saree |
| <i>Bandhani</i> | ... | ... Crop-share |
| <i>Bhajan</i> | ... | ... Devotional song |
| <i>Bhajan mandalis</i> | ... | ... A band of devotees singing devotional songs |
| <i>Bhakta</i> | ... | ... A devotee |
| <i>Bhakhari</i> | ... | ... Wheat bread |
| <i>Bhat</i> | ... | ... Cooked rice |
| <i>Bhavai</i> | .. | ... Folk drama performed by itinerant performers |
| <i>Bhayat</i> | ... | ... A cadet of the ruling family |
| <i>Bhoodan</i> | ... | ... Voluntary gift of land |
| <i>Bidi</i> | ... | ... An indigenous cigarette made from <i>timru</i> leaves and tobacco |
| <i>Bigha</i> | ... | ... A unit for measuring land, a square measure equal to about one third of an acre |
| <i>Bighoti</i> | ... | ... Cash assessment |
| <i>Bundha</i> | ... | ... A protective wall |
| <i>Burkho</i> | ... | ... A veil |
| C | | |
| <i>Chakariat</i> | ... | ... Land assigned for remuneration of village or Darbar service |
| <i>Chaukidar</i> | ... | ... A guard, a watchman |

C—Concl.

| | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Chaukiyat</i> | ... | ... A guard, a watchman |
| <i>Chauth</i> | ... | ... One fourth of the village revenue recovered under the Maratha rule |
| <i>Chhint</i> | ... | ... Printed cloth |
| <i>Choli</i> | ... | ... An indigenous blouse |
| <i>Chorasi</i> | ... | ... The whole caste, eighty four sub-castes |
| <i>Chudi</i> | ... | ... A bangle |
| <i>Chundadi</i> | ... | ... Bridal saree or a saree for auspicious occasions |
| <i>Chutney</i> | ... | ... Salad; sauce, a pungent mixture of chillies, turmeric, salt, etc. |

D

Midwife

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Dai</i> | ... | ... |
| <i>Dal</i> | ... | ... A body of cadets of voluntary force organised for defence of village |
| <i>Dandiya-ras</i> | ... | ... Circular folk-dance with sticks |
| <i>Darshan</i> | ... | ... Sight or glimpse of a deity |
| <i>Desai</i> | ... | ... The chief hereditary revenue officer in a district |
| <i>Devasthan</i> | ... | ... Land granted by Government free of revenue or at concessional assessment for maintenance of temple |
| <i>Dharma</i> | ... | ... Religion |
| <i>Dharmada Land</i> | ... | ... Grant of lands to individuals or religious institutions for maintenance |

D—Concl.

Dharmashala A public resting place in a village or town generally built by philanthropic persons or charitable trusts

Dhol A drum

Dhoti White garment worn round the waist by a male

E

Ekadashi Eleventh day of a fortnight observed as a fast by the Hindus

Ek-Ankada Form of revenue system in which the amount of *ankada* or land revenue was fixed

F

Faliya Turban, a piece of cloth wrapped as head dress

Farsan Salted eatables usually made of gram flour and fried in oil

Farta Ankada Form of a revenue system in which the amount of *ankada* or land revenue varied

Foujdar A subordinate police officer

G

Gadi A hereditary royal seat

Gadianu A weight equal to half a tola or 52 grains

Gaj Measure of twenty four inches

Ganga-jal Water of the river Ganga which is considered pious by the Hindus

G--Contd.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Garba</i> | ... | ... A sportive dance of females performed during Navratri days in Gujarat |
| <i>Garbi</i> | ... | ... A sportive dance performed by males |
| <i>Gaucher</i> | ... | ... Grass lands demarcated for village cattle |
| <i>Gaushala</i> | ... | ... Cow-shed |
| <i>Ghagharo</i> | ... | ... Petti-coat |
| <i>Gharania</i> | ... | ... The term is applied to such land which has been mortgaged |
| <i>Gharkhed</i> | ... | ... Land under personal cultivation of land holder |
| <i>Gharthal</i> | ... | ... A kind of land which is used for building a house |
| <i>Ghasdana</i> | ... | ... Money collections for grass and grain taken by the persons making the revenue collections. It also means forage money levied for the Gaekwad horse, a kind of tribute |
| <i>Ghee</i> | ... | ... Clarified butter |
| <i>Gilli-danda</i> | ... | ... Name of a game for boys |
| <i>Giras</i> | ... | ... Land given to cadets or junior members of chieftains family and their descendants for maintenance |
| <i>Goli</i> | ... | ... Earthen pot |
| <i>Goradu</i> | ... | ... Light coloured sandy soil |
| <i>Gotra</i> | ... | ... Lineage |
| <i>Gotraj</i> | ... | ... Born in the same family, the deity of a family |

G—Concl.

Grahasthashram Second of the four stages in the life of a Hindu

Gur or *Go* Jaggery

Guru Preceptor

H

Havaldar A police constable

Hol-bandī Plough assessment

I

Ijara A contract, monopoly

Ijardar A contractor

Inam A kind of land tenure, gift

J

Jagir Land granted to land holder by chiefs for some special service rendered or to be rendered to the State

Jagirdar A land holder, one who holds a *jagir*

Jamabandi Settlement of land revenue

Jamadar A police constable

Jamat Community

Jiva A soul

Jiwal Land given rent free for maintenance or in lieu of service rendered to the ruler

Jowar A kind of coarse cereal (*Sorghum vulgare*)

Judl Quit-rent

K

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Kansar</i> | ... | A sweet preparation of wheat flour, mixed with clarified butter and sugar or jaggery |
| <i>Kanyadan</i> | ... | ... Giving of a daughter in marriage to the bridegroom |
| <i>Kaplo</i> | ... | ... A piece of wood for engraving |
| <i>Karma</i> | ... | ... An activity |
| <i>Karma kand</i> | ... | ... The section of the Vedas which elaborates different rites and rituals |
| <i>Katha</i> | ... | ... Religious discourse, mythological legend |
| <i>Kathakar</i> | ... | ... Brahman who lives upon or carries on a profession of delivering religious discourses |
| <i>Kazi</i> | ... | ... A Muslim priest who officiates at marriage ceremony and decides disputes |
| <i>Kevaladvaita</i> | ... | ... The doctrine of absolute identity with Brahman |
| <i>Khadi</i> | ... | ... Home-spun cloth |
| <i>Khalsa Land</i> | ... | ... Agricultural land held directly from the State or Government |
| <i>Khalwad</i> | ... | ... General grainyard |
| <i>Kharif</i> | ... | ... Crop sown during the rainy season |
| <i>Khichadi</i> | ... | ... Hotchpotch, a mixture of cooked rice and pulse |
| <i>Kho-kho</i> | ... | ... An Indian game of getting up from a sedentary posture and catching persons from other party |
| <i>Kirtankar</i> | ... | ... A man who delivers discourses on religious episodes in poetic way |

K—Concl.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Kodio</i> | ... | ... Small cowry, sea shells used in play |
| <i>Kos</i> | ... | ... A land measure varying from one and half to two miles. It also means the leather bag used to draw water from a well |
| <i>Kotar</i> | ... | ... Ravine |
| <i>Krushi Vidyalaya</i> ... | ... | ... Agricultural Training Institution |
| <i>Kuka</i> | ... | ... Rounded pieces of stone used in play by girls |
| <i>Kumkum</i> | ... | ... Vermilion, red turmeric powder used for a mark on the forehead by a Hindu woman whose husband is alive |
| <i>Kutavun</i> | ... | ... Beating of breast by woman in mourning |
| <i>Kyari</i> | ... | ... This soil, though classed as a soil, is more properly the prepared bed in which rice is grown with or without artificial irrigation |

L

| | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Ladu</i> | ... | ... A sweet ball prepared from wheat flour, sugar or gur and <i>ghee</i> |
| <i>Lajjahoma</i> | ... | ... This ceremony is one of the most important rituals of the Hindu marriage. The ceremony of scattering fried rice or grain denotes a symbol of fruitfulness and prosperity, while the wife scatters grain, she prays for her husband's long life |
| <i>Langadi</i> | ... | ... An Indian game |
| <i>Lathi</i> | ... | ... A stick |
| <i>Lingapuja</i> | ... | ... The worship of an emblem of Lord Shiva |

M

| | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Mahal</i> | ... | ... A sub-division of a district lower than a taluka |
| <i>Mahalkari</i> | ... | ... An officer in charge of a Mahal |
| <i>Malmal</i> | ... | ... Muslin |
| <i>Mamlatdar</i> | ... | ... A revenue officer in charge of a taluka |
| <i>Man</i> | ... | ... A maund, forty <i>seer</i> in weight |
| <i>Mandal</i> | ... | ... An institution or organisation formed by group of persons with some specific purpose |
| <i>Mandala</i> | ... | ... A circle |
| <i>Mazmudar</i> | ... | ... Hereditary district officer enjoying alienated lands and cash allowances in the same manner as Desai |
| <i>Mhowra</i> | ... | ... A kind of a tree (<i>Madhuka indica</i>) |
| <i>Moksha</i> | ... | ... Liberation |
| <i>Mug</i> | ... | ... A kind of pulse (<i>Phaseolus mungo</i>) |

N

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Nag Panchmi</i> | ... | ... Fifth day in the bright fortnight in the month of Shravana of Hindu Calendar when cobra is worshipped |
| <i>Nakabandis</i> | ... | ... Placing of guards at the crossing of roads |
| <i>Natra</i> | .. | ... Widow remarriage |
| <i>Nazarana</i> | ... | ... Present, gift |
| <i>Nazim</i> | ... | ... Governor |
| <i>Nullahs</i> | ... | ... Cause-ways |
| <i>Nyayadhisth</i> | ... | ... Judge |

O

Odhanu An upper garment worn by girls

P

Pachchedi or
Pachhedo A sheet of cloth used to wrap round one's body

Pagadi A turban

Palli A kind of chariot made of wood by local artisans

Pan Betel leaf

Pandit or *Pundit* A scholar, a learned man

Panigrahana Acceptance of the hand of the bride by the bridegroom in the marriage ceremony

Panjrapole An asylum for dried up, descript and useless animals

Paragana A smaller administrative division

Pasher A weight of quarter of seer

Pat A wooden bench

Patel Village headman

Pathikashram A rest-house

Payjama A trouser

Ponkhavu To receive or welcome the bride, the bridegroom or both with an auspicious ceremony

Pujari A person in charge of a temple for the performance of rituals

*Purva Prathmik
Adhyapan Mandir*... ... Pre-primary Training Institution

R

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Rabi</i> | ... | ... Winter crop |
| <i>Rajbhag</i> | ... | ... Ruler's share |
| <i>Rashtra Pita</i> | ... | ... The Father of Nation |
| <i>Ras Leela or Ras</i> | ... | ... A sportive dance performed jointly by males and females. A sportive dance like that of Lord Krishna at Vrindavan |
| <i>Ras Mandali</i> | ... | ... A band of persons playing the sportive dance |
| <i>Rati</i> | ... | ... The seed of the <i>Abrus precatorious</i> plant used as the smallest weight |
| <i>Rekh</i> | ... | ... Main block |

S

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Sadhana</i> | ... | ... Penance |
| <i>Sagi Patli</i> | ... | ... Hard timber |
| <i>Sahukar</i> | ... | ... Money-lender |
| <i>Samadhi</i> | ... | ... Self immolation; a memorial raised to honour a particular saint; Meditation |
| <i>Sampradaya</i> | ... | ... A religious sect |
| <i>Samput</i> | ... | ... A pair of earthen cups, one placed inverted over the other and tied together in the religious ceremonies |
| <i>Saryasi</i> | ... | ... A mendicant or ascetic who has renounced the worldly life |
| <i>Sanyasta</i> | ... | ... Asceticism, renunciation of the world |
| <i>Sarai</i> | ... | ... A public resting place for Muslims in village, town or pilgrimage centre |

S—Concl.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Saree or Saris</i> | ... | ... A Hindu woman's chief garment drapped round the body |
| <i>Sarpanch</i> | ... | ... Head of a Village Panchayat |
| <i>Saihi</i> | ... | ... Permanently attached servant employed by agriculturists |
| <i>Sati</i> | ... | ... A woman who burns herself alive with her dead husband |
| <i>Satini deri</i> | ... | ... A small temple or shrine of Sati |
| <i>Satyagrah</i> | ... | ... Non-co-operation movement |
| <i>Seer</i> | ... | ... A measure of weight |
| <i>Shastra</i> | ... | ... Scriptures; sacred books |
| <i>Shishu-Vihar</i> | ... | ... A school for children below five years |
| <i>Shraddha</i> | ... | ... Obsequies, a ceremony performed for the salvation of the departed soul |
| <i>Sicca</i> | ... | ... Coin, bits in small denominations |
| <i>Simanta</i> | ... | ... A ceremony performed generally during the seventh month for the first conception of a woman |
| <i>Stree Adhyapana Mandir</i> | ... | ... A Teacher's Training College for women |
| <i>Subedar</i> | ... | ... The Governor of a province under the Muslim rule |
| <i>Surval</i> | ... | ... A long trouser |
| | | T |
| <i>Tahsildar</i> | ... | ... A Collector, a revenue officer of a district or taluka |
| <i>Tajvijdar</i> | ... | ... Circle Inspector |

T—Concl.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Talukadar</i> | ... | ... An estate holder |
| <i>Tasu</i> | ... | ... A measure of length, 24th part of gaj, an inch |
| <i>Tavij</i> | ... | ... Talisman |
| <i>Tirthankara</i> | ... | ... One of the 24 incarnations of god worshipped by the Jains |
| <i>Tola</i> | ... | ... A measure of weight, eightieth part of a seer |
| <i>Toran</i> | ... | ... A festoon |
| <i>Tripunda</i> | ... | ... A mark consisting of three curved horizontal lines made across the forehead with cowdung ashes, sandal, etc. by the followers of Shiva or Shakti |
| <i>Tur-dal</i> | ... | ... A kind of pulse, (<i>Cajanas indicus</i>) |

U

संयमेव जपते

| | | |
|------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Udhad</i> | ... | ... A measure of a quantity guessed, but not actually measured |
| <i>Udhai</i> | ... | ... White-ant |
| <i>Upashraya</i> | ... | ... A resting place for the Jain monks and nuns |
| <i>Urs</i> | ... | ... Death anniversary of a Muslim saint at his shrine |

V

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| <i>Vahivatdar</i> | ... | ... An Administrator or Manager, revenue officer in charge of a taluka in old States |
| <i>Vaje</i> | ... | ... Crop-share |

V—Contd.

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Val</i> | ... | ... 1/32 of tola |
| <i>Vana Mahotsava</i> | ... | ... A festival connected with planting of trees at the commencement of monsoon |
| <i>Vanzara</i> | ... | ... A kind of nomadic tribe |
| <i>Var</i> | ... | ... Measure of one yard |
| <i>Vechania</i> | ... | ... Land that has been sold |
| <i>Vero</i> | ... | ... Tax |
| <i>Vigha</i> | ... | ... A unit for measuring land, a square measure equal to about one third of an acre |
| <i>Vivaha-homa</i> | ... | ... Marriage sacrifice |
| <i>Vyakhayankar</i> | ... | ... A lecturer, a commentator, a religious story-teller |
| <i>Vyayam Vidyalaya</i> | ... | ... A gymnasium |
| सन्दर्भ नामे | | |
| <i>Wanta</i> | ... | ... A portion, an allotment portion of village lands held rent-free by Girasias |

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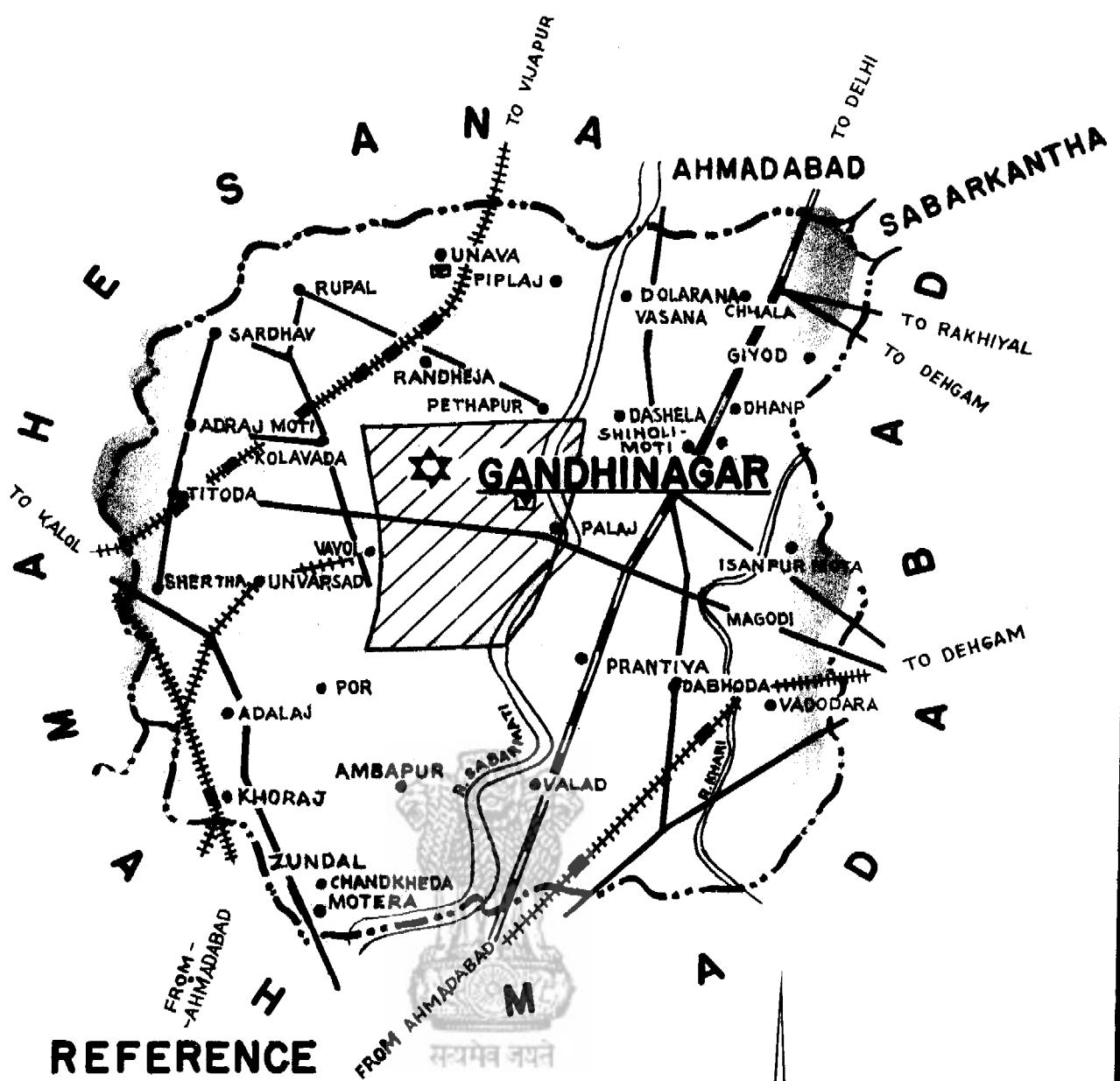
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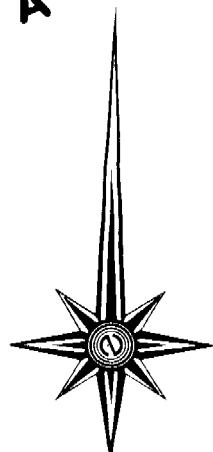
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- VILLAGE ABOVE POPULATION OF 2000
- |||| RAILWAY STATION
- REST HOUSE



MAP OF GANDHINAGAR DISTRICT

